Pamphlets Tell History Of America

This week is the 25th annual observance of Negro History Week, first introduced in 1926. This is also the week of Abraham Lincoln's birthday and the supposed birthday of Frederick Douglass.

A review, for the occasion, of a century of Negro pamphlets, indicates that not only Negro history is involved, but American history, and therefore, world history.

During 1949, The Pamphlet Index listed such pamphlets as: "How A Southerner Licked Intolerance," reprinted from Colonel Let My People Go," published by the Urban League: "What Should We Do About Race Segregation?" published by Town Hall.

These pamphlets are written not only for scholars. They are written for the whole world to read. The subject is the Negro. The pamphleteers are interracial. They focus on Negro rights specifically and democratic rights in general. Their scope includes critical questions of productivity, politics, international relations. Other listed titles were: "Negro in Our Economy," published by the Southern Regional Council; "The Negro's Stake in the Future of American Industry," published by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; "Survey of the Negro Vote in the 1948 Presidential Election," published by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; "Nobody Knows....." published by the Committee Against Jim Crow in Military Service and Training.

DIFFERENT FOCUS

About a hundred years ago pamphlets relating to Negroes nad a different focus,-slavery. Their scope was as extensive, and they, too, were intended for mass circulation.

A pro-slavery pamphlet, "The Rights of American Slavery," by T. W. Holt of the St. Louis Literary and Philosophical Association, went to 500,000 copies in two editions in 1860. Some 30 years earlier, "David Walker's Appeal," an explosive attack against slavery, had gone to three editions, and it was expected by Walker: "that all colored men, women and children, of every nation, language and tongue under heaven will try to procure a copy of this appeal and read it, or get someone to read it to them, for it is designed more particularly for them."

Scripture was introduced on both sides. In 1842, the slaveholders issued a pamphlet, "Slavery Defended by Scripture Against the Attacks of the Abolitionists." Anti-slavery views were posed in such pamphlets as "View of the Subject of Slavery contained in the Biblical Repertory for April 1836, in which the Scriptural Argument, It Is Believed, is Very Clearly and Justly Exhibited."

Questions of law were raised in 1847 in a pamphlet by Lysander Spooner titled "The Unconstitutionality of Slavery." This was immediately contested in a pamphlet by Wendell Phillips insisting that the Constitution itself was a pro-slavery document.

ECONOMICS POSED

Economics was posed in such pamphlets as "Wages or the Whip, An Essay on the Comparative Costs and Productiveness of Free and Slave Labor," (1833).

Important to both the North and the South was the attitude of the European nations. Emissaries and documents crossed the Atlantic. In 1847, there appeared in London a "Tract on American Slavery by the Rev. M. M. Clarke, a Colored Man Now on a visit to England from the United States." In 1852, an Englishman published in London the pamphlet "Slavery the Crime and Curse of America: An Expostulation with the Christians of that Land."

Fifty years ago, Negro pamphlets were primarily concerned with the economic betterment of the race.

Today, as we reach the second half of the Twentieth Century, the significance of race relations in America has been summed up by President Charles S. Johnson of Fisk University in his pamphlet, "Some Changes in Perspectives and Patterns of Race Relations," published by the American Missionary Association, Nashville, Tennessee, 1949:

"The issue of race relations is today an organic part of the international issue of human rights."

Spingarn Bibliography Featured In Crisis

NEW YORK—Forty-two books and thirty-two pamphlets written in English by Negro authors in 1949 are listed and summarized by Arthur B. Spingarn in the February issue of THE CRISIS, official organ of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Mr. Spingarn, who succeeded the late Joel E. Spingarn as president of the NAACP in December, 1939, is well known as collector and student of the writings of Negro Americans. "Books by Negro Authors, 1949," is the fourteenth annual resume of its kind prepared by Mr. Spingarn for THE CRISIS.

Also featured in THE CRISIS for February are: "What One Vistior Discovered About the South," by Otis W. Coan; "And Forbid Them Not," an article about the interracial West Cincinnati-St. Barnabas Church, by Iris V. Owens; "A Progress Report," followed-up on the presentation of a Negro history course at the College of Puget Sound, Washington, by Ralph A. Johnston; and "South Africa and South West Africa," a report on the doctrines of racial supremacy in Africa and South West Africa," a report on the doctrines of racial supremacy in Africa, by Michael Scott.

42 Books Written By Negroes In '49

NEW YORK.—Forty-two books and 32 pamphlets written in English by Negro authors in 1949 are listed and summarized by Arthur B. Spingarn in the February issue of "The Crisis," official organ of the NAACP.

Mr. Spingarn, who succeeded the late Joel E. Spingarn as president of the NAACP in December, 1939, is well known as a collector and student of the writings of Negro Americans. "Books by Negro Authors, 1949," is the fourteenth annual resume of its kind prepared by Mr. Spingarn for The Crisis.

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Fleming to Direct Firm Publications

YONKERS, N. Y.—Christian E. Burckel and Associates, publishers of Yonkers, N. Y., this week announced the promotion of V. J. McClain to director of their contract publications division, and Dr. G. James Fleming to director of all their own publications.

Burckel and Associates, for the past seven years, have been authors and publishers of instruction manuals for commercial use, technical orders for the armed forces, and the College Blue Book.

Defender Prophecy Comes True 30 Years Later: Rhynes' Rhymes Famous

A DEFENDER PROPHECY in 1919 that a then struggling poet would "become a poet of exceptional ability" appears at long last to have been fulfilled.

The Defender reporter was referring to Myles Andrew J. Rhynes, whose long life has admittedly been "lonely and discouraging," as a poet.

read some of Rhynes' poetry. You'll stop doubting.

The humble home in which Rhynes resides at Fayetteville, N. C. bears witness to the fact that financial success has not been his. But then, his writings ably testify that if success would be measured in terms of simplicity of verse and a self-confidence instead of in terms of the dollar sign, Rhynes would undoubtedly be the most successful man who ever lifted a pen.

God does things in mysterious manners. For He selected a small town in Gaston county here in North Carolina for the birthplace of this literary artist. Born in modest surroundings, the youth, hungry for knowledge, educated himself Lincoln-style. From a single speller, Rhynes got the beginning that was to project him to the position he now obtains.

One of Rhynes' prize possessions and undoubtedly the impetus which spurred him on to greater works is a letter he received from President Teddy Roosevelt in appreciation for a poem, "God Bless Our President."

Then in 1907, Rhynes was honored when one of his poems was set to music for the Jamestown exposition.

"Echoes of a Traveler's Dream," a collection of Rhynes' poems, was the first to be printed in 1914.

A letter from King George V came in 1915 thanking him for a poem dedicated to the monarch.

It took until 1919, however, before the world got its first real glimpse of this man who wrote poems for Kings and Presidents. A reporter with the New York office of the Chicago Defender met Rhynes.

The scribe, Charles McGill wrote, "A Defender representative came upon a man in Mount Claire, N. J. who gives promise of someday becoming a poet of exceptional ability and if given the proper encouragement, this man might prove another Dunbar."

This small notice must have greatly inspired the young author. From then on the climb was a downhill pace. Don't get the idea that the young poet let up in his relentless struggle for recognition. No, he worked harder.

Now, the Defender prophecy has come to pass. If you doubt this,

MYLES A. RHYNES

Two 'Who's Who' Volumes Battle Over Who's First

WASHINGTON, D. C. (ANP)—"Legal action" has been threatened against "Who's Who in Colored America" by "Who's Who in America," to prevent the biographical directory of noted Americans of African descent from using the words "Who's Who" in its title.

That this action is imminent was learned by the Associated Negro Press quite by accident, soon after copies of the new edition of "Who's Who in Colored America" reached this city last week.

Shortly after, ANP got in touch with the publishers of "Who's Who in Colored America" in Yonkers, N. Y. G. James Fleming, director of publications of Christian E. Burckel and Associates, admitted that his organization had received a letter from lawyers representing "Who's Who in America," and along the lines of the information learned in Washington, Fleming said the present a reply to the lawyers.

According to the Washington information, the law firm of Davies, Richberg, Beebe, Landa and Richardson of this city, through James T. Welch, one of its attorneys, has pointed out certain decisions of the Federal Trade commission, the U. S. District Court of New York, and the U. S. Patent Office of "Who's Who in Colored America."

In addition, the firm has called on "Who's Who in Colored America" to eliminate the words "Who's Who" or face "appropriate" legal action.

Fleming stated that, in his reply, he called attention to the fact that "Who's Who in Colored America" has been published since 1927 (seven editions) under its present title; that each edition had been copyrighted, and that no attempt whatever had ever been made to associate "Who's Who in Colored America" with "Who's Who in America," or to make "Who's Who in Colored America" to look like

The present edition of "Who's Who In America" has a bright green cover, with gold imprint, while "Who's Who in America" has a red cover. The two books are different in size and format and, most important, "Who's Who in Colored America" has always carried photographs (640 in the present issues), while the other publication is without illustration.

"Who's Who in America" has been published since 1899, but the publication patented its title (its entire title) only in 1940. Since then the Patent Office has refused other patents to titles containing the words "Who's Who."

Despite the threatened action against "Who's Who in Colored America," there are a number of Who directories, so titled, which are not published by "Who's Who in America" and the A. N. Marquis company.

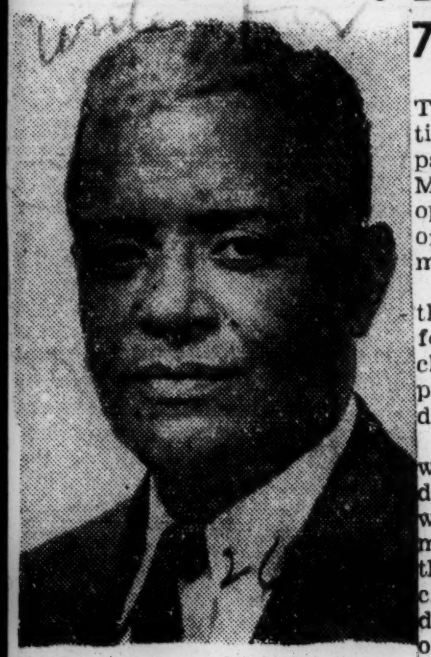
Some of these are: "Who's Who in America Education," "Who's Who in Labor," "Who's Who in American Jewry." There is also, of course, the original "Who's Who," published in Great Britain and covering people in all parts of the world.

"A Mockingbird Sang At Chickamauga" by Alfred Leland Crabb; Dobbs-Merrill; New York City; $2.75

NEGRO POETS IN ANTHOLOGY

A new anthology of North-American poetry recently published in Argentina, "Dos Siglos De Poesia Norteamericana," includes selections from eighteen Negro poets. The book is edited by Alfredo Casey of Buenos Aires. Lewis Alexander, Gwendolyn Bennett, Arna Bontemps, William Stanley Braithwaite, Sterling Brown, Richard Bruce, Joseph Cotter, Angeline W. Grimke, Countee Cullen, Waring Cuney, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Donald Jeffrey Hayes, Frank Horne, Langston Hughes, Georgia Douglas Johnson, James Weldon Johnson and Anne Spencer are the eighteen represented. A number of excellent poets including Robert Hayden, Margaret Walker and Gwendolyn Brooks are not represented.

Historian Reports On Virginia Voting



Dr. Luther P. Jackson, above professor of history at Virginia State College, Petersburg, Va., recently released his ninth annual report on voting among the colored citizens of Virginia. The report is published in the interest of the Virginia Voters League which fosters the annual surveys.

"This Is Race: An Anthology Selected from the International Literature on the Races of Man," by Dr. Earl W. Count, will be published on Feb. 23 by Henry Schuman. The volume presents sixty selections from the writings of fifty-eight anthropologists, which have been translated into English by Dr. Count. He is Professor of Anthropology at Hamilton College.

N. Y. Anti-Bias Division Reports 749 Cases Solved

NEWARK, N. J. — (NNPA) — The Division Against Discrimination of the New Jersey State Department of Education reported last Monday that during four years of operation it has amicably disposed of 423 formal, 195 informal and 131 miscellaneous complaints.

In its annual report for 1948-49, the division stated that of the 423 formal complaints, 74 per cent charged discrimination in hiring practices, while 13 per cent alleged discriminatory dismissals from jobs.

Of all cases closed, 48 per cent were satisfactory adjustments of definite situations of discrimination, while another 40 per cent were dismissed for no probable cause for the action taken. The rest were cases withdrawn by complaints or dismissed by the division for lack of evidence or jurisdiction.

Joseph L. Bustard, director of the division, in a statement accompanying the report said: "The gains made since 1945 indicate that our citizens generally recognize the desirability of doing away with discrimination and segregation in our civil affairs."

BOOK OF ESSAYS TO HONOR DR. JAMES E. SHEPARD

DURHAM, N.C. — The North Carolina College Chapter of the American Association of University Professors is planning a volume of scholarly essays in honor of the late Dr. James E. Shepard, founder and president of North Carolina College.

"Floodtide," Frank Yerby's new novel, has been postponed by Dial Press until Aug. 22. Mr. Yerby's fifth novel is set in Natchez, Miss., and covers the ten-year period before the Civil War. His earlier books have sold 4,000,000 copies in the United States alone.

Handbook of Va. History Hit at Educators' Confab

State-sponsored Pupil Publication Held Brazen Piece of White Supremacy Doctrine

RICHMOND

A "Handbook of Virginia History," which the State plans to place in the hands of pupils in every Virginia high school, came under relentless attack here recently during a conference of education at Virginia Union University.

The book now being distributed by the State Conservation Commission, is seen as one of the most brazen pieces of white supremacy propaganda ever placed, with sanction of the State, in the hands of the school children of Virginia.

Attack on the book came in the form of a list of "sins of omission," "inaccuracies" and "most annoying sections"—those which are neither accurate nor inaccurate, but which involve judgments in emphasis and value and which are absorbed uncritically."

Book's Motives Suspect

The list, prepared by Robert B. Johnson of the faculty of Virginia Union, was distributed during the conference at the college, which featured attendance and addresses by some of the leading educators in the State, including State officials.

In releasing the list, a Virginia Union official asserted:

"It seems important that educators become aware early that this book is not designed to give a wholesome interpretation of the role of the colored man in the history of Virginia, nor to foster improved race relations.

A complete list of Mr. Johnson's objections to the volume, together with comments of other educators and an analysis of the book's contents, made by the editor of this newspaper, will be published in a forthcoming issue of the Richmond AFRO-AMERICAN.

Priest's Book Urges Quick Action On Bias

NEW YORK, N. Y.—"No Postponement", a study of U. S. Moral Leadership and the Problem of Racial Minorites, by John La Farge has recently been published by Longmans, Green and Company.

In his work, Father Le Farge declares that America's upholding of the UN Declaration of Human Rights will mean nothing abroad if millions of Americans are smothered by prejudice. "Our traditional moral consciousness, "he says," must be supported by legislation. It is up to America—right now — to blaze the difficult trail toward the brotherhood of man."

The author is the formulator of the Catholic Interracial Movement and author of "The Race Question and the Negro", now in its fifth printing. He is chaplain of the Catholic Interracial Council of New York City and vice-chairman of the Committee on African Students in North America.

* * *

HIS FATHER, ALSO John L. Farge, was an internationally known artist and author.

$2,500 Carver Award Offered for Best Book on Racial Subject

NEW YORK (ANP) — A George Washington Carver award for a book about colored Americans was announced here last week by the Doubleday and Company, Inc., book publishers. The award is open to any book — fiction, non-fiction, or poetry. The offer is open indefinitely.

This award totals $2,500, including $1000 advance and $1500 outright. Manuscripts are to be sent to Editors, George Washington Carver Award, Doubleday

BROWN

DYNAMIC FIGHTER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS WHO GETS RESULTS. ORGANIZED LOW-PAID GOVERNMENT EMPLOYES OF WASHINGTON AND GOT THEM GOOD INCREASE... HIS ORGANIZATION, NATIONAL NEGRO COUNCIL, SECURED A MILLION SIGNATURES AND FREED 50 NEGRO SAILORS WHO REFUSED TO LOAD AMMUNITION SHIPS AFTER 323 OF THEIR NUMBER HAD BEEN BLOWN UP ON ONE IN 1944. FOUGHT DISCRIMINATION IN THE AIR FORCE WITH SUCCESS, ALSO THE SUBMITTING OF PHOTOS WHEN APPLYING FOR CIVIL SERVICE JOBS. EDUCATED AT NORTHWESTERN UNIV. AN ATHLETE, ALSO, HE HELD NATIONAL TENNIS CHAMPSHIP FOR FOUR YEARS AND HAS MANY TROPHIES

The SARA

TALLEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD... NATIVES OF EAST AFRICA, THE AVERAGE HEIGHT IS 5 FEET 11 INCHES, WHICH IS ABOUT THREE INCHES HIGHER THAN THAT OF THE AMERICAN WHITE MAN....

Gabrielle SIDONIE COLETTE

FRANCE'S FOREMOST FEMALE WRITER, LEGION OF HONOR, AND PRESIDENT OF THE GONCOURT ACADEMY, ONE OF EUROPE'S HIGHEST LITERARY SOCIETIES.

ABLE SHORT-STORY WRITER, NEWSPAPERWOMAN, AND DRAMATIC CRITIC AS WELL AS ACTRESS SHE HAS WRITTEN MORE THAN FIFTY BOOKS AND PLAYS AMONG THEM THE "CLAUDINE" SERIES, AND "GIGI" AND "CHERI", CURRENT SUCCESSFUL PLAYS. MADAME COLETTE SAYS HERSELF THAT HER GRANDFATHER, HENRI MARIE LANDAY, WAS A MULATTO. VERY WITTY, SHE IS ONE OF FRANCE'S MOST BELOVED CITIZENS.....

"Port Afrique"

A colorful, melodramatic novel of Africa, "Port Afrique", is a book well designed to hold its reader's interest. The author, Bernard Victor Dryer, makes good use of mystery and suspense and a wide range of out-of-the-ordinary characters. Africa itself, with its lush but foreboding atmosphere, also lends itself to Mr. Dryer's efforts.

The book is concerned with Rip Reardon's return from an American hospital to Africa after learning of his wife's suicide. Before it ends Reardon has discovered much he did not know of his wife's life during the four years he was overseas. In addition, he has begun to see a way out of his own physical and mental troubles.

Readers who like a good story will enjoy "Port Afrique".

"Port Afrique" by Bernard Victor Dreyer; Harper and Company; New York City; 1949; $2.50.

Book on Walker's Life Published

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—"From the Driftwood of Bayou Pierre," a new book written by T. J. Johnson, depicts very vividly the life of Dr. J. E. Walker, president of Universal Life Insurance Company and top executive of Memphis' Tri-State Bank.

The book was printed by the Dunne Press, Louisville, Ky., and sells for $2.50. The biography may be purchased through the Jones Agency, 1117 Tulley Street, Memphis, Tenn.

Economics and Sociology

THE EVIDENCE OF VOLUNTARY ACTION. Edited by Lord Beveridge and A. F. Wells. 348 pp. New York: The Macmillan Company. $4.75.

THE BANTU OF NORTH KAVIRONDO. Vol. I. By Gudter Wagner. 511 pp. Illustrated. New York: Oxford University Press. $12.50.

HELD WITHOUT BAIL. By Eugene S. Zemans. 65 pp. Chicago: John Howard Association?

THE NEGRO IN NORTHERN BRAZIL: A Study in Acculturation, by Octavio da Costa Eduardo (J. J. Augustin, $2.75).

Booklet Tells How To Stop Violence

ATLANTA, Ga.—"How To Stop Violence! Intimidation In Your Community" is the title of a booklet just released by the Southern Office of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, it was announced by Judge Emanuel Lewis, of Savannah, chairman of the Southern Regional Board of ADL.

"How to Stop Violence! Intimidations! In Your Community" was prepared in answer to the many requests for information about legislation, either existing or proposed, on this subject. The booklet discusses the several types of laws to curb terroristic organizations, the legal background of the laws, and the ways in which these laws can be used most effectively.

Pocket-Size Book Publishers Are Putting Out 35-Cent Gems

By JOSEPHINE SCHUYLER

NEW YORK—The New American Library of World Literature, Inc., 245 Fifth Avenue, New York, is publishing some excellent pocket-size books for 35 cents, the same books formerly selling for from $3 to $6. Their scientific volumes have the trade name of Mentor Books; the novels are issued as Signet publications.

Recent issues among the former have been "The Aims of Education" by Alfred North Whitehead, a very scholarly study of the function of colleges and the anatomy of thought. Another, "The Limitations of Science by J. W. N. Sullivan, should be read by everyone.

Mr. Sullivan, a creative scientist, deals with the same limitations of human knowledge as does Bertrand Russell in his latest book, "Human Knowledge: Its Scope and Limits"; but without the latter's wit and personality.

Mr. Sullivan, however, will be more appreciated by the average layman. He is straightforward, comprehensive and clear; and he ends on a more hopeful note.

* * *

BUT LIKE RUSSELL, he shows how small is Man. Our would is probably the only inhabited planet of our system; and human and animal life as we know it, may be rarely found in other systems, but there are so many unimaginable millions of universes that among them there are doubtless other experiments like ourselves; most of them older probably.

The heavens literally swarm with solar families; think of the teeming life in an old mill pond and that will give you some idea. In this vast conglomeration of seething amoeba the world is relatively too small to see. This is good food for thought when we start worrying about the grocery bill or what Mrs Jones wears.

Mr. Sullivan thinks that with our present limited perception and tools, we have gone as far as we can in astronomy; unless some great genius makes the same kind of jump that was made by Riemann, Lobachevsky, Bolyai and Gauss who postulated relativity, laying the foundation for Einstein.

In our mass of theories today there seems to be several "constants" it seems certain that we can depend upon the velocity of light the quantium of action "H," electric charges and masses of proton and electron.

BUT WE DO NOT understand the connections between these constants. Why, for example, should the proton have eighteen hundred times the mass of the electron? Further research in organic chemistry seems the most hopeful field; new concepts there will present a new outlook on inorganic matter and possibly merge the two. The science of mind, of which we know little, will have to break it's bounds to bring about unity in our scientific knowledge.

* * *

THE Signet novels are not so well selected as the Mentor books. There is an excellent, edited (and much better for that) "Look Homeward, Angel" by Thomas Wolfe, and the fascinating "Other Voices Other Rooms" by Truman Capote, young literary exotic, which has a strange, perverse lonely quality.

But then there is a quantity of cheap stuff liked "Montana Man" by Lehman; "Love in Dishevelment" by Greenwood; "Shore Leave" by Wakeman who wrote the more amusing "Huchsters" But worst of all is "The Butterfly" by James M. Cain. This is an incredibly shoddy book with the obvious purpose of shocking. It is all about some loathsome moonshininng mountaineers with apelike mentality, but who speak in unbelievably good English while the one who tells the tale can even write fair prose though in every other way illiterate.

Mr. Cain tried to use the difficult theme on incest, but was unable to master it. There is an absurd to-do about a butterfly birthmark which proves there wasn't incest after all. A device for being lewd and moral at the same time. An old American custom which Europeans would dispise. To make matters worse, Cain has a long preface explaining how he came to write this stupid hodge-podge and denying, quite needlessly, that he writes like Hemingway.

NEGRO HANDBOOK PACKED WITH FACTS

FOR THOSE ENGAGED in research on the Negro, an encyclopedia of at least eight volumes is a necessity, but in the meantime, a work such as "The Negro Handbook," compiled by Florence Murray, comes in handily. This is its fourth edition and it is published by Macmillan Company, New York ($5).

The amount and the range of information packed in its 368 pages is astonishing. The principal subjects dealt with are population and its distribution, vital statistics and health, including births, deaths, list of Negro hospitals and leading Negro physicians; civil rights in its many phases, such as restrictive covenants, suffrage, peonage, teachers' salaries and Supreme Court decisions; crime and what has been done about it; education, institutions of higher learning, land-grant colleges and Negroes on faculties of predominantly white colleges; government and politics, with details on the President's civil rights program, Negroes in Congress, past and present; members of state Legislatures, FEPC and the Progressive party; and so on with Negro libraries and authors, labor, housing, business, farms, the armed forces, religious denominations, sports, the Negro press, theatre and organizations as the YMCA and the Urban League.

* * *

A LITTLE OF the information is already out-of-date as is the case with cyclopedias in general but so far as this reviewer could see, it is reliable. It is engrossing reading. too. and whether one is engaged in research or not, he will find it profitable reading. With a work as this there is no longer an excuse for so much of that loose talk engaged in some times even by those who ought to know better.

J. A. ROGERS

New York. N. Y

REPORT ON CIVIL RIGHTS

That doughty defender of the Bill of Rights, the American Civil Liberties Union, raises some difficult questions in its current report, made public Saturday. It is critical of our occupation policy in Germany and Japan—unduly so, one might suggest, in view of recent trends in both countries—and it thinks it detects a national hysteria exceeding "in its severity, intolerances and fears" anything comparable since 1920.

Yet its detailed findings are not too discouraging. Its "balance sheet" of acts by public agencies, including the United Nations Assembly, shows fifty-three instances favorable to civil liberties, as compared with sixty-three regarded as unfavorable. Of its correspondents in seventy-five cities in thirty-nine American states half thought civil rights as well sustained as they were a year ago and one-fourth thought there had been improvement. It was appalled by the Justice Department's list of "subversive" organizations, drawn up without public hearings, but it finds "increasing vitality" in the Truman Administration's civil rights program.

One might judge, on the record, that this nation is confused rather than hysterical. With world-wide communism behaving everywhere with complete lack of scruples it is natural for nervous persons to suspect ghosts in every graveyard and burglars under every bed. Some reactionary individuals take advantage of this situation. Yet a courageous appeal to the principles of the Bill of Rights finds its ready response among the great masses of middle-of-the-road Americans. Paul Robeson and his friends have their troubles, but most of us stoutly defend their right to sing and talk. Meanwhile the Civil Liberties Union is a good institution to have in our midst. We need to be reminded, as the Union continually does remind us, that all good citizens of all shades of honest belief share in this country a precious heritage of freedom.

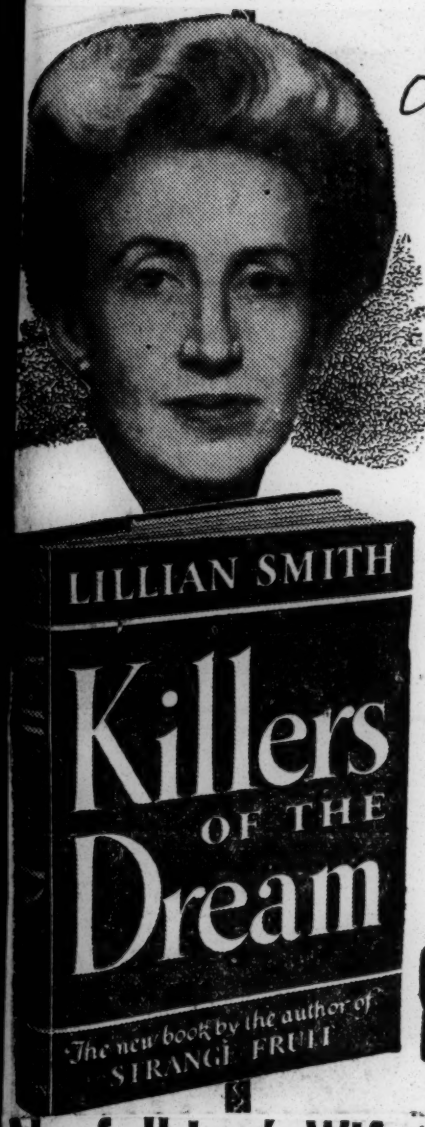
Chicago Agency Issues Civil Rights Handbook

CHICAGO—(ANP) — Publication of the handbook, "Your Civil Rights," by the Chicago Commission on Human Relations was announced last week in a joint statement by Augustine J. Bowe, chairman, and Willard S. Townsend, vice-chairman, of the commission.

The handbook, the first publication of its kind to be issued by an American municipal agency, gives in total all State statutes and city ordinances covering civil rights for all citizens.

FREEDOM AND WELFARE IN THE CARIBBEAN: A Colonial Dilemma, by Arnette Baker Fox (Harcourt, Brace, $3.50).

New Song—Esther Warner, author of the revealing book on Liberia, "New Song in a Strange Land," carves an African head from rare camwood. Her new book, published by Houghton and Mifflin, is hailed as one of the best written on Liberia.



The long-awaited new book by

LILLIAN SMITH

the author of

STRANGE FRUIT

In large part autobiographical, KILLERS OF THE DREAM concerns the tangled complex of sin and sex and segregation that is stifling the dream of freedom on which our Western civilization is based. It will be as widely discussed as was STRANGE FRUIT. It is a book to challenge, disturb and inspire men of good will everywhere. $3.00

A. Nachman

BOOK SHOP—LIBRARY
11 SOUTH PERRY ST.

Norfolkian's Wife Writes Book Of Jewish Customs

NEW YORK — American Othordox Jewish authorities have hailed the book recently published by Mrs. J. Ida Jiggetts, wife of John Jiggetts, formerly of Norfolk, as the most authentic work ever done by a non-Jew on the subject of Jewish religion, diet and health.

Mrs. Jiggetts, who is a native of North Carolina, and resided in Shelby, N. C., where her father was both a minister of the CME Church and principal of the Cleveland County High School, learned to read and write at the age of three.

After completing work for a degree in nursing, Mrs. Jiggetts continued her studies on a scholarship awarded by Mercy Hospital in New York.

She obtained her master's degree from the New York University where she is now studying for her doctorate. She also studied at the Jewish Seminary of Social Studies of the Jewish Theological Seminary, where she served as art editor of the school paper during 1946.

In 1946, she was appointed by the Veterans' Administration as the first colored social worker in the Kingsbridge Veterans Hospital in New York under the Veterans' Administration Medical and Psychiatric Social Service program.

Mrs. Jiggetts' interest in the religious customs and dietary practices of the Jewish people dates from her early childhood when she befriended a Jewish peddler in her home town.

Since then, her work as a social York City area led her into conworker and as a nurse in the New tact with many Jews.

AFRICANISMS IN THE GULLAH DIALECT, by Lorenzo D. Turner (University of Chicago, $7.50). African influence on South Carolina and Georgia culture.

Richard Wright, author of "Native Son," will play the leading role in a screen adaptation of his novel, which is being produced by Argentina Sono Film. The shooting script of the film, which will be released in two versions, one in English, the other in French, was written by Mr. Wright.

George Weller, author of "The Crack in the Column," which was recently published by Random House, was mistakenly identified as a former foreign correspondent for The Chicago Daily News in a review on this page. Mr. Weller still is a foreign correspondent for that publication.

Author of 'Native Son' Whacks Ties in Homeland

CHICAGO (ANP) — Richard Wright, author of "Native Son," the novel of seamy life in Chicago which made him internationally famous, spent last week here in his old home town.

It was a fleeting visit although a busy one. Wright sold his home on the South side, a house which he bought after fame had increased his income. He told friends that he intended to make his home permanently in Paris, France, where his wife and child are now. The little girl has been entered in a school there.

Wright also supervised the making of some exterior film scenes here in Chicago which will be used in the moving picture version of "Native Son." His efforts to have one of the American motion picture companies to make the picture failed so he turned to Argentina.

Wright said he tried also to make the film in Europe but none of the Marshall Plan countries would give him permission.

His hearers gathered that the United States did not want the world to know that scenes of the sort described in his book could ever occur in this country and that countries dependent upon them for financial aid therefore would not entertain the idea of having the film made on their soil.

Whether Argentina consented because she is more or less cool toward the United States and does not care particularly what her opinion might be is a matter for conjecture.

Wright himself will play the part of "Bigger Thomas" the central figure in the play. The role was offered to Canada Lee, Wright said but Canada did not accept.

Gloria Madison, a student at the University of Chicago, was selected last weak during the auditions for the filming of the play to portray the role of "Bigger Thomas's" girl friend. Miss Madison is a native of Philadelphia.

Committee Against Jim Crow in Military Services and Training (Phil Randolph and Grant Reynolds) has out its Bomb, "Nobody Knocks." Cover is a classic, that painting by Gabriel DeAngelis of a colored veteran sadly contemplating outside his novel, his war decorations. Foreword is by Al (Schmoe) Capp. Illustrations (which may be had in mats) by Bill Maldin and Bernard Seaman. (25 cents and cheaper in quantity —Suite 706 112 East 19th st., NYC).

Green Does New Book On Southern Folk

CHAPEL HILL, N. C. — Paul Green's "Dog on the Sun," to be published Nov. 5 by the University of North Carolina Press, is the author's first collection of short stories since 1946. Once again, Pulitzer prize winner Paul Green has captured all the moods of the American South, from pathos to humor.

No sharecroppers of julep-sipping colonels are to be found in these artful short stories, but rather the ordinary folk of the farm, mill town, city, college campus. All of the stories exhibit those qualities that have made Paul Green the great writer that he is—a keen ear for the rhythms of American speech and a feeling for the underdog that is not an intellectual formula but a rich outpouring of human sympathy.

Clark Chemistry Senior Authors Beginners Book

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

A chemical arithmetic for begin-rs, designed to aid new students chemistry in their interpretation problems and to strengthen their owledge of mathematics, has been eased by Henry Nehemiah Cooper, hemistry senior at Clark College Atlanta, Georgia.

The experiences and observations three years as a chemistry labor-ry assistant, where the author ed the difficulties which per-xed beginning students in this prompted this work.

Sun. 10-16-49

The first part contains an ex-nation of the decimal and metric stems and presents some short ts in arithmetic. Examples of the in types of problems in inorganic emistry — primarily gas laws — e presented and clarified. Some mple solutions of problems as a ries of logical steps are valuable. Perhaps the most salient feature of the booklet is the table of usual concentrations of common stock re-agents which is entirely original. This table is designed to facilitate the dilution of the regular stock fixed reagents.

Author Cooper is a native of Monrovia, Liberia. At Clark, he has been unusually active in student af-fairs. He is president of the student council, financial secretary of Iota Beta Chemical Society, and a mem-ber of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

HENRY COOPER

Books—Authors

New York Times

(Bucklin Moon, author of "The Darker Brother," has received the George Washington Carver Award for his new novel "Without Magnolias." The award presents an outright grant of $1,500 and $1,000 in advance against royalties. Mr. Moon's book will be published by Doubleday April 7.

The Courier Salutes

There is a high degree of satisfaction in the disclosure that several textbooks written by Professor Merl R. Eppse of Tennessee State College have been adopted for use in all the public schools of the state of Kentucky which has become the sixth state to adopt the use of Professor Eppse's textbooks.

That satisfaction is born of the realization that what Negroes have striven and dared to help America become what it is today, will become the knowledge of thousands of school pupils. For, Professor Eppse's books deal with the history of the American Negro and this will undoubtedly bring a warm innerglow to Dr. Carter G. Woodson who has striven on that theme for so many years.

"The Negro, Too, in American History" and "An Elementary History of America including the Contributions of the Negro Race," are among the top works of Professor Eppse which will be studied and learned and thereby bring more pride in the Negro race and what it has done here.

For so significant a contribution—one which will have a profound effect upon the future of America—The Pittsburgh Courier is pleased to salute Prof. Merl R. Eppse, director of the Division of History of Tennessee State College, Nashville, Tenn.

PROF. MERL R. EPPSE

educational achievement

Kentucky Adopts History Text Of Prof. Merl Eppse

All Schools of State To Use "The Negro, Too In American History" And Elementary Book

The Kentucky text book Commission notified the Publishers of Professor Merl R. Eppse, Professor of History and Director of the Division of History and Geography Tennessee State College, Nashville, Tennessee that his books **The Negro, Too, in American History** and **An Elementary History of America including the Contributions of the Negro Race**, has been adopted for use in all the Public schools of the commonwealth of Kentucky for 1950 to 1955.

Professor Eppse has accomplished the unique feat of integrating the life and struggle of the Negro along with the whole development of American life, rather than writing about isolated problems and issues.

These books have already been adopted by six states and many municipalities. The growing popularity and worth of this approach is being acclaimed by both teachers and pupils. The life of the Negro emerges from Africa to the present time. The Negroes' part in the development of the American way of life is sanely treated, well balanced, and vividly portrayed.

Ky. Schools Use Dr. M. R. Eppse Books

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Kentucky Textbook Commission notified the publishers of Prof. Merl R. Eppse, professor of history and director of the division of history and geography at Tennessee State College here, that his books: "The Negro, Too, in American History" and "An Elementary History of America, including the Contributions of the Negro Race," had been adopted for use in all the public schools of the state of Kentucky from 1950 to 1955.

Prof. Eppse has accomplished the unique feat of integrating the life and struggle of the Negro with

DR. EPPSE

the whole development of American life, rather than writing about isolated problems and issues.

These books have already been adopted by six states and many municipalities. The growing popularity and worth of this approach is being acclaimed by both teachers and pupils. The life of the Negro emerges from Africa to the present day. The Negroes' part in the development of the American way of life is sanely treated well balanced and vividly portrayed in Prof. Eppse's histories.

GERTRUDE Marun

'The Shadow And The Peak' Deals With Race Problem In Jamaica

FROM its first sentence "The Shadow and the Peak" by Richard Mason seizes and holds reader's interest. Mr. Mason, an Englishman, has set his story in a progressive school in Jamaica, British West Indies. Although his book is not long he introduces a large number of characters and succeeds in giving them all a measure of individuality. He is not concerned directly with Jamaica's race problem but he refers to it often directly and indirectly, and shows complete understanding of the factors involved.

The central character in "The Shadow and the Peak" is Douglas Lockwood who has taken a position at the Blue Mountain School to escape England and an unsuccessful marriage. Pawley, the school's head, is an ineffectual man who is adept at dodging decisions of any kind. His wife furnishes the money for the school but has little interest in it or anything except her own frustrations. A Jamaican couple and Duffield, an Englishman opposed to progressive education, are the other staff members.

Mr. Mason is as effective with the children as with his adult characters. Silvia, in particular, the problem child, is very real as are Rosemary, John, Alan and the others. But it is Silvia who becomes a true test of the school's theories and of Douglas' understanding.

The book opens with an airplane crash in the hills near the school. The stewardess who survives, Judy, comes to represent all that is vital to Douglas. She is, it seems to me the author's least successful character but this is a relative matter in a book which is so admirably done.

Simplicity of style, quiet humor, natural dialogue, and great understanding of human nature combine to make "The Shadow and the Peak" a book of unusual distinction. It is the sort of book one doesn't want to lay aside and reading it is a rewarding experience.

"The Shadow and the Peak" by Richard Mason; MacMillan; New York City; 1950; $3.00.

"CAMPUS TOWN"

This is a book which seems to just miss being effective by the author writing of very real threats to liberty; the Ku Klux Klan and domination of academic thought, but the action remains shadowy. The book's setting is a state university in the Southwest where Lefty Williams has come to get the education he has always dreamed of having.

The change in Lefty from the brash, inexperienced youth who favors the Klan when he comes to State College to the fighter for civil rights is well handled. At the same time he receives a liberal sex education as well.

"Campus Town" is a well conceived book which does not realize all its possibilities. In many ways it is a more stilted and less successful book than the author's first novel, "Border City." On the plus side are a swift moving narrative which does not let the interest lag; it is the characterizations which fall short of reality.

"Campus Town" by Hart Stillwell; Doubleday and Co.; New York City; 1950; $3.00.

Fine Novel By Montgomery Writer

THROUGH THE FIRST GATE, by John Craig Stewart, Dodd Mead and Company, New York, 280 pages—$2.75.

This book—from the pen of a Montgomery writer—is one of the few stories about the South that captures the mood and interprets the atmosphere of the region.

And in the opinion of this reviewer, this greatly humorous and compassionate novel is significant for more than the excellent story that it tells.

It is significant because it shows a definite and unmistakable writing talent with which Stewart will surely fashion many more books of a similar calibre—books filled with warmth, told with simplicity, and fastened together with genuine writing skill.

"Through The First Gate" is an adventure—an exciting moving episode—in the social history of a young man and his sudden wareness of the world about him.

The young man, Tom, is described in schooldays, in everyday occasions, and in fear and loneliness. Tom's curiosity and final love for Miss Lenoir, his sympathy for his friends, and his hatred for Rufus are but a few of the things that awake within him the seeds of virgin maturity. Tom's father, Gordon MacRae has inherited a cotton plantation in a poverty stricken Southern area, and he surrounded by his wife's loneliness an dthe hostility of neighbors.

Stewart's description of one of the early "awarenesses" of Tom is told with graphic, delicate and moving description. It is in a church and the Ku Klux Klan, in regalia, march down the hall, and present the preacher with a green bill and a note. This scene from the book will bring to mind to many readers a similar incident which took place in Alabama.

Throughout the book, Tom is caught in a mood of banishing his happiness and easy mind and partaking of a more mature reasoning, with which he is able to unlock many of his suspicions and doubts. His hatred for Rufus involves him in his father's fight, and the violence of the Ku Klux Klan deprives him of his only two friends. And Tom is also faced with his mother's lonely ordeal.

The book reaches a high and rare climax with the violence of the Klan and Rufus's death from a concussion from a dive into the water. It was only then that Tom knew that because of a certain

JOHN CRAIG STEWART

sameness, Rufus and he had come together not in friendship, "but as enemies because that sameness existed and everything else was different."

The reader also will enjoy the vivid characterizations of Charlie, Abe, Ocie, Rufus, Kirby Scroggins, Aunt Helen, Douglas, and Uncle Thomas, all of whom lend a part to Tom's inner triumph.

Throughout the book, the reader hinds himself trapped into Tom's state of mind and feel that he is a part of Tom's struggle for self identification.

Stewart's main skill, undoubtedly, is shown in his terse description and clear dialogue. Not only is the reader captured by the book's moving story, but he is fascinated by the clever and exciting method that Stewart uses to move him from place to place and from one mood to another.

And many Alabamians will discover in reading this book descriptions of places that remind them very much of the area near where they live.

Stewart was born, raised, and Educated in Alabama. He is now a graduate assistant at the University of Alabama. He has always wanted to be a writer and got "volumes of poetry" out of his system in his high school days. It was only after World War II and a sojurn in the Pacific that he returned to the University of Alabama to study under Hudson Strode. He has published short stories in the Atlantic Monthly, American Mercury, and Mac Lean's of Canada.

—JOE AZBELL.

Carpetbags in Dixie

ISLAND LIGHT. By Alexander Key. 326 pp. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company. $3.

SOME years ago, in places below the Mason-Dixon line, a class of men were deprived of their precious civil rights. They could not vote or hold office. They were denied the equal protection of the law. They lived in terror of armed mobs.

What's more, the yoke of second-class citizenship galled twofold because they bore it unjustly. They had been singled out, they felt, not for any individual crimes, but largely because of the color of their skins. They were white. This, you see, was 1867, and the shattered Confederacy writhed in the throes of Reconstruction.

Mr. Kev's new novel concerns Rebel sea-raider Max Ewing, who escapes from a Yankee prison and returns incognito to his old Florida home at Apalachicola. There he finds carpetbaggers in possession, his silverware confiscated, and a lot of "bad" Negroes laboring under the curious misapprehension that they have civil rights too. In short, an intolerable situation.

Pending its correction, Max retreats to a lonely lighthouse to hunt buried treasure. He finds not gold, but two handsome ladies, and hastens back to Apalachicola just in time to quell a mob of drunken Freedmen maddened by "the removal of restraint." One need hardly add that the gentlefolk triumph.

RICHARD MATCH.

Catholic Priest Pens Book On Liberia

NEW YORK — (ANP) — The Catholic Story of Liberia is the title of a book published here by the Declan X. McMullen company.

Written by Father Martin Banes, U.S.A., veteran Catholic missionary priest, the book describes the Catholic missionary effor in the Negro republic.

THE WORLD OF BOOKS

The South In War

THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA, 1861-1865, by E. Merton Coulter. Louisiana State University Press; 612 pages, $7.

In this, the fourth volume to be published in the new and scholarly 10-volume "History of the South," Prof. Coulter relegates the military side of the Civil War to the background. His chief interest is the life and the war efforts of the Southern people.

Beginning with a brief review of secession and the problems of creating the new government, the author reviews the Confederate financial difficulties and failures, diplomacy, manufacturing, the building of an army and navy, the obtaining of supplies and the maintaining of the war spirit. To accomplish these necessary ends, Mr. Coulter points out, the rights of states were sometimes disregarded. Manufacturing, shipping, food production, prices and profits were regulated, although not sufficiently to obtain the supplies necessary to win the war.

The author emphasizes the handicaps of the states' rights philosophy in the prosecution of a national war. In accordance with recent research, he considers this philosophy the main cause for friction and the eventual failure of the Confederacy. The ardent defenders of the states, particularly Alexander H. Stephens, Joe Brown, and, to a less extent, Zeb Vance, do not fare well in this book.

Although this work adds little that is new to scholars, it confirms contentions recently advanced in monographs. Mr. Coulter argues, for instance, that secession resulted from a way of life rather than from a states' rights philosophy or from slavery. He might have added that since this way of life and states' rights were produced by slavery, the latter was the underlying cause of secession.

He holds that Davis rather than Toombs or Cobb was elected to head the Confederate government in order to preserve harmony. Although he emphasizes Davis' inability to win the whole-hearted support of the people and his inability to work harmoniously with subordinates, Mr. Coulter concludes that Davis probably did as well as any of his contemporaries could have done.

The author plays up the enthusiasm at the beginning of the war for the Confederate cause as a glorious experiment. Many leaders wanted to use secession as an occasion for turning from the democratic philosophy and for creating an aristocratic society in the new country.

Finally, Mr. Coulter includes some worthwhile chapters on fine arts, literature, education, religion, and the activities of women in the Confederate states. He concludes that many women who in the beginning stirred the men to heroic fetes of battle eventually became discouraged and helped to bring on the collapse of morale. He holds that the home rather than military front gave way and brought collapse.

This work is in keeping with the high standards set by the previously published volumes in this series. No library on the Civil War will be complete without this significant study.—HENRY T. SHANKS, Birmingham-Southern College.

THE NEGRO IN SPORTS

By EDWIN BANCROFT HENDERSON

Here passes the whole panorama of Negro athletes and sports heroes from the days of Bill Richmond and Tom Molyneaux to All-American "Bill" Lewis of Harvard down through the years with Peter Jackson, George Dixon, Joe Gans, Jack Johnson, Major Taylor, Fritz Pollard, Paul Robeson, Duke Slater, Sidat Singh, Brud Holland, Kenny Washington, Eddie Tolan, Jesse Owens, Joe Louis, Ray Robinson, Ezzard Charles, Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella, "Satchell" Paige, Joshua Gibson, Don Newcombe, Cumberland Posey, Larry Doby, and others. It gives one up-to-date recor dof the achievements of Negro athletes and athletic organizations.

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Boston Author Cited; Chosen For "Who's Who"

ARTHUR F. FURR

Arthur F. Furr, co-author of "The Red Hand" and author of "Democracy's Negroes" has taken a step forward in the literary world.

His "Democracy's Negroes," recently published, has attracted the attention of such notables as Sigmund Levine, of The World of Books, and a large number of libraries and colleges throughout the United States.

In recognition of his literary work the editorial staff of "Who's Who in Colored America" will include a biographical sketch of Mr. Furr and mention of his books in the 1950 edition of that publication.

He is well known in Boston where he resided most of his early life. He received his early training in the Medford High School. Later he studied at Suffolk University and Boston University Law Schools. A disabled veteran of World War I, he is presently employed at the Veterans Bureau, Boston, but lives at 3 Frost St., Brockton.

Orders for his latest volume, "Democracy's Negroes," a reservoir of facts about colored Americans, may be sent to his home address or left at the office of The Guardian.

New Book By Dr. Mays Has Been Released

The latest literary effort by the prolific pen of Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, president of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia, was recently released by Haddam House of New York City (printed by the Association Press.) This book, titled A Gospel for the Social Awakening, consists of selections from the writings of Walter Rauschenbusch compiled by Dr. Mays, with an introduction by C. Howard Hopkins. The appearance of this highly significant work is especially important at this time, since the ideas of Rauschenbusch are so applicable to our times. Indeed the Cambridge History of American Literature describes him as "perhaps the most creative spirit in the American theological world," and he was considered by his own generation as a prophet. This book retails for $2.00.

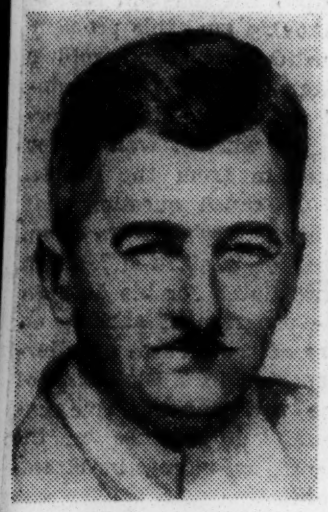
Other books by Dr. B. E. Mays are The Negro's Church (co-author) Institute of Social and Religious Research, New York, 1933; The Negro's God, Chapman and Grimes Boston, Massachusetts 1938; and Seeking to be Christian in Race Relations, Friendship Press, New York, 1946. In addition to the above works, Dr. Mays made contributions to the following: (1) editor of section of "Race" in Christus Victor, edited by Danzig Patrick, World Committee of YMCA, Geneva Switzerland, 1939; contributed Chapter IX, "The New Negro Challenges the Old Order," A. H. Gordon, Sketches of Negro Life and History in South Carolina, W. B. Conkey and Company 1929; one of 194 contributors to the Encyclopedia of Religion, by Vergilius Fern, The Philosophical Library, New York, 1945; "The Inescapable Christ," an address included in Representative American Speeches, selected by A. Craig Baird, published by H. W. Wilson and Company, 1944-45, "The Inescapable Christ," a sermon in Best Sermons, edited by G. Paul Butler, published by Harper and Brothers, New York, 1946; and "The Christian Way in Race Relation" a chapter in the book edited by William Stuart Nelson and published by Harpers, 1947.

Dr. Mays has written dozens of articles and book reviews that have been published by such journals and magazines as The Crisis, Christian Century, Journal of Negro Education, The Educational Outlook among Negroes, the AME Zion Quarterly Review, Religion in Life, Christendom, Missions, Georgia Observer, The Intercollegian, The Pulpit, Church Social Worker, International Journal of Religious Education, Journal of Religious Thought,, The Women's Press, Highroad, Woman's Mission, The Journal of Educational Sociology, The Methodist Woman, Prophetic Religion and The Negro Digest.

Books of The Times

By CHARLES POORE

THE most famous thing about William Faulkner, a great American storyteller who last week won last year's Nobel Prize in literature, in his obscurity. An enormously popular notion holds that he is not popular at all. And this is widely and enthusiastically attributed to his relentless way of shouting that life is not half so pretty as it desirably should be—in sentences that usually have the looping complexity of ordinary telephone conversations.



William Faulkner

It is sometimes suggested that he is Confederate caviar. In critical circles austerely devoted to rediscovering, say, the singularities of the Jameses and the varieties of the Cranes, he is lamented and admired as much too good for human nature's daily food.

Yet the fact that several million Americans seem to know about his wonderfully intricate and frequently appalling tales of Chas-Adams characters in a wisteria world of Poe or L'il Abner's Dogpatch, need not endlessly be brushed aside.

Nor need Faulkner, a man of tolerance and humor who prefers his Mississippi farm and town life to Manhattan's noisy splendor, forever say, with Ambrose Bierce:

Mark how my fame rings out from zone to zone:
A thousand critics shouting: "He's unknown!"

Is he? Well, didn't anybody, then, see that fine picture, "Intruder in the Dust"? And may we present some figures, not many hours old, which show that by this week Random House, his publishers, had sold in regular and Modern Library editions more than 70,000 copies of Faulkner's "Sanctuary," some 13,000 copies of "The Wild Palms" (hmmmm!), 23,000 copies on "Intruder in the Dust" and 34,000 copies of "The Sound and the Fury."

In Gamut of Anthologies, Too

Is that all? you may well say—disgraceful for a nation of 150,000,000 people. But please wait; read on. Random House's faith in Faulkner has borne other fruit. The admirable Viking Press' anthology, "The Portable Faulkner," which takes you through many books in the wide and deep Faulknerian world, has sold more than 20,000 copies. And how many of the books we've mentioned, do you suppose, have gone into libraries, to be read over and over again?

I looked into a shelf full of anthologies the other night and found Faulkner all over the place. Somerset Maugham had chosen "Turn About"—it's called, more compactly, "Turnabout" in Random House's "Collected Stories of William Faulkner"—for "Tellers of Tales" (Doubleday). In Bernardine Kielty's "A Treasury of Short Stories" (Simon & Schuster), you'll find "The Hound." In Edwin Seaver's "Pageant of American Humor" (World)—you see how Faulkner gets around?—it's "Spotted Horses," and the story is in "The House of Fiction" (Scribners), edited by Caroline Gordon and Allen Tate.

"Joe Chirstmas," from "The Sound and the Fury" is in "A Little Treasury of American Prose" (Scribners), a good anthology with a [illegible] title, edited by George Mayberry. "Dry September" is in "The Critical Reader" (Norton), edited by Wallace Douglas, Roy Lamson and Hallet Smith. "The Old People," is in "The Story" (Prentice-Hall), a new critical anthology edited by Mark Shorer. "Raid" is in "Craft of the Short Story" (Rinehart), edited by Richard Summers.

"A Rose for Miss Emily" is in "American Poetry and Prose" (Houghton Mifflin), edited by Norman Foerster, and it is believed in some quarters to be almost as frequently reprinted as "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" by Ernest Hemingway—and John O'Hara's courageously stated opinion of him—but perhaps these cited instances may give some color to the thought that Faulkner's work is known.

You might say that no one in America reads Faulkner—but the people. These additional figures came this week from a popular reprint house, the New American Library, whose pocket-size volumes of Faulkner's works were going this way:

"Sanctuary" .....1,103,424 copies
"Intruder in the Dust"..... 357,040 "
"The Wild Palms" ..... 989,362 "

"Knight's Gambit" to be published Dec. 1 with a start of 289,000 copies.

Again, how many different persons will read each copy?

World of Fantasy Known Afar

It seems entirely possible to believe that most Americans share the Swedish Academy's knowledge that Faulkner's works are worth honoring even if some are not suitable for childish minds of any numerical age since they contain many grim situations, much murky laughter, a kind of apocalyptic presentation of decay—past, present and to come—and tales of bitter valor.

And it may be that the Europeans who have read him with much relish in recent years have found in Faulkner's pictures of fortitude and desolation a certain gloomy satisfaction as they look across his pages at unshattered America. But not all, surely; not all.

He has created a world. A world so strange that you can never forget it. A world so true that it is actually mapped and surveyed by Faulkner himself in the cartographic endpapers for "The Portable Faulkner," edited by Malcolm Cowley. Here is John Sartoris' railroad, for example, and the Old Frenchman Place, where Popeye murdered Tawmmy, and here is the Yoknapatawpha River, the most memorable, the most unpronounceable name in Faulkner's mythical kingdom.

Above all, Faulkner is a superlative storyteller, as Richard Rovere points out in his fine introduction to the Modern Library's edition of "Light in August": "No other American writer can match him in the old art of catching the ear of the passer-by."

The last word, and the best, comes from another superlative storyteller, Eudora Walty, who in an essay, "On Short Stories," published by Harcourt, Brace, said:

"His stories seem to race with time, race with the world.* * *The reason Faulkner's unwieldy-looking sentences can race is of course their high organization—a musical organization. And Faulkner is highly organized and his evocation does seem to come out of the place where music comes. Don't let his turbulence ever blind us, his structure is there—daring structure.* * *Faulkner deals with such aspects of the human being as dignity and glory and incorruptibility and corruptibility and ridicule and defeat and endurance —especially endurance." Again: "His stories seem to race with time, race with the world."

Gertrude Martin

'Under The Skin,' Though Stilted And Uneven, Has Unusual Ending

A YOUNG English woman's coming to a West Indian island as headmistress of the school there and her experiences as she learns to understand and love the Negroes with whom she works is the theme of "Under the Skin" by Phyllis Bottome. For all its sincerity and wealth of local color, this novel is not as successful as some of Miss Bottome's earlier ones.

Miss Bottome does succeed in showing the relationships that exist between whites and blacks, between the whites who accept Negroes and those who will not, as well as the varying attitudes of Negroes themselves.

"Under the Skin" is weakest in its characterizations. Lucy, the central character, and some of the minor ones do come to life, but Phillip Calgary, Whiteleaf, the Chinese nurse and Elvira Loring are not as real.

The story that the author tells is an interesting one and she builds it up skillfully to the climax in the hurricane. The problems the colored characters meet are more or less the same ones Negroes know in the United States. Lucy's growing realization of the meaning of her white skin, even to those Negroes who come to love her, is well developed.

The tropical beauty of the West Indies, with its vivid colors and lush foliage, is a fitting background for the twisted motives and strong emotions which are involved here.

"Under the Skin" is unusual among novels about the color problem in its hopeful ending. Most writers on one aspect or another of the relationships of blacks and whites end their books in tragedy or renunciation. Although the writing is uneven and sometimes stilted, "Under the Skin" approaches a provocative problem with understanding.

"Under the Skin" by Phyllis Bottome; Harcourt, Brace and Company: New York City; 1950; $3.00

Books Published Today

THE ADVANCED ATLAS OF MODERN GEOGRAPHY, by John Bartholomew (Whittlesey House, $8.50). American edition of a revised work first published in England in 1949.

ADVANCED BAIT CASTING, by Charles K. Fox, illustrated by Fred Everett (Putnam, $3.75). Instructions in fishing.

CLOAK OF LAUGHTER, by May Mellinger (Putnam, $2.75). A novel about San Francisco.

DON GAUCHO, by Alyce Pollock and Ruth Goode (Whittlesey House, $3). A novel set in Argentina during the revolution against Spain.

EASY SPANISH FOR MEXICO, CUBA AND ALL LATIN-AMERICAN COUNTRIES, by Frances Toor (Crown, $1). A revised and enlarged edition of a language guide.

THE MAGNIFICENT COURTESAN, by Lozania Prole (Medill McBride, $3). A novel about Lady Hamilton

MAIN LINE: A Philadelphia Novel, by Livingston Biddle Jr. (Julian Messner, $3). *Reviewed today.*

SIMPLE SPEAKS HIS MIND, by Langston Hughes (Simon & Schuster, $3 cloth, $1 paper). A collection of short stories about Negroes in Harlem.

THE TEXAS BORDER and Some Borderliners, by Robert J. Casey (Bobbs-Merrill, $5). A chronicle and guide of Texas.

TIMES AT BAT: A Half Century of Baseball, by Arthur Daley (Random House, $2.75).

TONOPAH LADY, by Zola Ross (Bobbs-Merrill, $3). A novel set in a Nevada mining town.

THE 22 BROTHERS, by Dana Sage (Simon & Schuster, $2.50). An Inner Sanctum detective story.

THE YEARBOOK OF PSYCHOANALYSIS, Vol. 5, Sandor Lorand, M. D., managing editor (International Universities, $7.50).

Book Review

Chiefly of a man named Carter Woodson.

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

The deaths of Dr. Carter G. Woodson and Dr. Luther P. Jackson within ten days of each other are a one-two punch from which a certain aspect of our grouplife may never recover. Both were by way of being authorities on phases of the history of the colored people in America.

Both were more prolific than is common, and to Dr. Woodson alone some two hundred titles, including articles and essays, can be attributed. Both, above all, were historical scholars who rejected the pleasant sanctuary of the ivory tower to mingle with the moiling crowd.

Perhaps they did this to the hurt of their reputations and their potentials as scholars; but it is their praise now—and praise it is—that they did do it. They were equally of town and gown.

No colored writer who works in the material he knows best can fail to feel a loss. Years ago, in the days when it was not unpopular to be a race chauvinist, it was said that Countee Cullen, going abroad on a fellowship, took several volumes of Woodson with him.

When asked about this later, Cullen remarked to the effect that he "needed" history and "where else but in Woodson" could he get the history he needed.

Many writers have needed him, not so much for historical fact (though often for this too) as for a rediscovery of the potency and the sources of inspiration in our life.

Hughes and Bontemps, Brawley and Brown drew upon him. He was one of the first to encourage Jean Toomer.

And he was himself an inspiration. One cannot say how great the debt in this kind is, but it certainly means something that the two outstanding and younger historians now left in the race worked with him and for him.

Little Money, Fame

Rayford Logan and John H. Franklin must have found something in the man as man, since both were better scholars. Perhaps what they found was his single-hearted devotion to a cause that brought him little money and less real fame.

Always perched on a precarious economic edge, Mr. Woodson yet refused what must have seemed munificent offers to teach in security. Never quite knowing how to finance the publication of the books his one-man firm issued, he chose a struggle against poverty in order to bring out novels, the plays of Willis Richardson and Eulalie Spence, and various scholarly titles which, but for him, would never have seen the light of day.

I think it is safe to say that Negro History Week, which Mr. Woodson originated and kept the breath of life in, influenced more people to read works by and about colored people than any other single agency that ever functioned in America.

Dialogues --But Barbed

SIMPLE SPEAKS HIS MIND. By Langston Hughes. 231 pp. New York: Simon & Schuster. Cloth, $3; Paper, $1.

By CARL VAN VECHTEN

ON frequent occasions the late James Weldon Johnson, Negro author, was heard to observe: "There is no doubt in my mind that the solution of the race problem depends on a sense of humor." Then he would say that persons who would permit Negroes to prepare their food, to lave their garments, to suckle their children, and then refuse to allow these same Negroes to sit next to them in street cars or buses (although they often sat next to them in their carriages and motor cars) must be a trifle cracked. "The only way to make these benighted souls see the light," he would continue, "is to convince them that their conduct is a huge joke."

Langston Hughes, the poet, may be performing that very service in a book which is perhaps not new in form (Mr. Dooley comes to mind as a similar creative effort), but which presents the Negro in a new way. Jesse Simple is wise, witty, as mad as the Madwoman of Chaillot—and invariably race conscious. He is the naïve propagandist, through a series of dialogues.

SINCE these papers were originally written for a Negro newspaper and, consequently, an exclusive Negro audience, there is no attempt at obfuscation. The papers probably exhibit the Negro in bedroom slippers and pajamas—that is, as nearly himself as it would be possible to show him. Simple is completely frank in his opinions about white people: he dislikes them intensely. The race problem is never absent, but the flow of the book is light-hearted and easy.

This is a sane approach to real insanity and I wouldn't be surprised if this book reaches more people and has wider influence than any volume on a similar subject since "Uncle Tom's Cabin." "Simple Speaks His Mind" will start a lot of people thinking hard. For those who have to swallow bitter pills it provides a sugar-coating of humor. Only a Negro could have written this book, and only a Negro as wise as Langston Hughes.

Author of "Nigger Heaven," Mr. Van Vechten founded the James Weldon Johnson Memorial Collection of Negro Arts and Letters at Yale.

Two in '50

Publish Second Redding Book

HAMPTON, Va. — "They Came in Chains," second work this year from the pen of J. Saunders Redding, professor of English at Hampton Institute, will be published July 11 by Lippincott in the "Peoples of America Series."

"They Came in Chains" is the story of the American Negro from his origins in Africa to the present. It tells the tale of generations of slavery, illiteracy, disfranchisement and discrimination during which the race has been moving toward the gradually evolving status of "American Citizen. First Class."

Leaders Air Views On New Book On Negro Leadership

What is the definition of a leader? How should the Negro plan his future? These and other questions were considered by Mrs. Edith Alexander, executive director of the Mayor's Committee on Unity; Edward Lewis, executive director of Urban League of Greater New York; Guichard Parris, director of public relations, National Urban League; Rev. Charles A. Levy, executive secretary of the New York branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; Louis Fair, Jr., Grand Master of the New York State Prince Hall Masons last Thursday evening as they discussed "The Challenge," a book on Negro leadership, by Julius J. Adams, associate editor of the Amsterdam News.

The forum skillfully handled by Guy Brewer, moderator, revealed several interesting opinions of the Negro's leaders.

Louis Fair lauded the contributions of A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, to labor. "Most of the others that many call leaders are not really leaders at all and do not deserve the title at all."

Mrs. Edith Alexander deplored the attitudes of many of those in 'important' positions. "Young people have come to me and complained how difficult it is to even see these men." She went on to add, "What we need is 'grass roots' leadership."

Guichard Parris criticized "The Challenge" for suggesting that what the Negro needs is leadership of the kind that Winston Churchill gave England, and Hitler gave Germany. "Mr. Adams," he commented, "by mentioning England and Germany, seems to consider the Negro as a nation." The author informed the panel-speaker, however, that what he was referring to was the quality of leadership which these men exemplified.

All of the speakers had interesting interpretations of this Wendel Malliet Publishing Company's product. These views were aired pro and con but they were unanimously agreed that Julius J. Adams' book, "The Challenge" is a valuable and provocative contribution.

The Negro Literary League presented this as the first in a series of discussions on important current publications. It was held at St. Martin's Episcopal Church.

Hudson Strode's novelists

A FEW YEARS AGO big-time lawyers were talking about how Prof. Felix Frankfurter was putting his law school grads into important places in the practice, in business and in government. . . . Nowadays book publishers talk about an Alabama professor named Hudson Strode who has turned out 23 novelists in the last 12 years. . . . Strode pupils have had novels accepted for publication this year.

Six this year

PREWITT SEMMES won a $1,000 literary fellowship from Dodd-Mead, and his novel, "Devil's Thumb," will be published in the Spring. . . . Robert Bowen's "The Island," will hit the Alfred A. Knopf press in February. . . . Carlyle Tiller's "Red Bone Woman" is doing so well that it will make the 25-cent pocket-sized editions soon. . . . Other books by Strode pupils doing well are: "Through the First Gate," by John Craig Stewart; "Laurel," by Alice Fellows, and "The Bitter Road Path," by Thomas Hal Phillips.

His influence spreads

THE STRODE influence on young Southern writers is bound to have a marked effect. . . . Robert Bowen, a Connecticut Yankee, liked Alabama so well that after getting his A. B. in Tuscaloosa last year he decided to stay here. . . . Now he is teaching fiction writing at the University Center here in the Magic City. . . . I'm waiting for a historical novel some young Southerner one day will do about Alabama's biggest industrial city. . . . There is adventure and romance a-plenty in the building of Birmingham.

LOOKS AT BOOKS

The Life of Frederick Douglass

Among those who were born near the turn of the present century are perhaps memories of stories of slavery, the underground railway, the Civil War, Appomattox, and unquestionably, some mention of Frederick Douglass, much.

His picture, an enlarged daguerreotype, hung in my grandmother's parlor along with that of Abraham Lincoln and great-grandmother Nicholas.

To our childish eyes they looked amazingly alike. Each had a stern visage, with wide nostrils, rather full mouths and, in all respects, a remarkable similarity except that great-grandmother Nicholas wore a bonnet.

* * *

THE SIMPLE STRENGTH and composure of these faces was impressive. They bespoke a certain honesty, wholeness, and quiet, simple dignity unmatched by any in our experience save those solid black effigies of marble which grace the Egyptian sculpture room of the Chicago Museum.

There are no more faces like these. Time, progress and Hollywood have annealed the contemporary countenance into a grinning mask that hides the fears, confusions and uncertainties of contemporary man. But "The Life and Writings of Frederick Douglass," International Publishers, New York, Vols. 1 and 2, 422 and 540 p. p., $4 and $4.50, revive the consideration of other years.

DOUGLASS HAS SUFFERED neglect at the hands of historians generally. Hardly any mention is made of him in the textbooks of our schools. Our children know next to nothing concerning his life and labors in the last century. Yet he was a great American. And the tacit conspiracy of silence about him cannot erase the mark he made on our national life.

It is indeed remarkable to consider his simple beginning and to compare his life and accomplishments with what could have been reasonably expected of one of such humble promise.

Midway in the first of these volumes one comes full flush against a supple, yet masculine prose style and a remarkable grasp of the fundamentals of culture. One wonders how this man, not yet long freed from bondage, could have ingested so much.

* * *

THEN, TOO, THE testimony of his oratorical powers is tremendous. One asks the question: "What schools, what methods were these that taught so much in so little time?" Alas, sadly, these schools, men or methods seem to exist no more as witness the droves of confused half-educated non-entities who bray in the hustlings among us today.

Douglass saw clearly through the maze of contradictions in the early abolitionist movement. His political gyrations were the result of the interminable changes in the atmosphere of white opinion on the slavery question.

Yet withal, once crystallized, his belief, in a test of arms to settle the question, never wavered. His personal courage was unquestionable.

* * *

THE AFFAIR AT Pendleton, Ind., in the 1830's would have stopped fainter hearts. It is amazing to consider the number of miles Douglass and his cohorts travelled in the fight to destroy slavery. The editorials of The North Star and The Liberator show a strength and unity seldom matched today. It is to Douglass' eternal credit, though seldom mentioned, that he stood in the forefront of the fight for female suffrage.

The letter to Thomas Auld of Sept. 3, 1848, is a masterpiece. The sentiment and construction of this missive are worthy of the greatest masters of the epistolary art. In it he lays bare all the fraudulent Christianity of this era in America.

* * *

THERE ARE TWO more volumes of this work in progress. Let us hope that they contain something more of the personal human individual. These present volumes give us the glorious symbol, the tribune of his people. For this we are grateful. They deserve to be read.

LAWRENCE T. CARTER
Detroit. Mich.

Writes Biology Book With Different Idea

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — A new book, "Biology for Appreciation," by Dr. Alfred F. Nixon has been published by Chapman & Grimes of Boston. This volume presents biology from a different angle--not as a teacher to a student, but as a lover of the subject to a friend.

According to the author, his aim is to let the reader know that science, particularly biology, is not a cold, matter-of-fact, generally uninteresting subject. He is trying to demonstrate that biology is a living topic that should play a leading role in every person's life.

Dr. Nixon wants every person to appreciate biology and to see it is a dynamic subject. His book is not one that merely presents classroom topics or sets up advice for teachers only. Its intention apparently is to bridge the gap somewhat between cold, unemotional absolutely rational science and the unscientific sense of human or cultural values.

His new book is a result that 20 years of teaching biology in Washington, D. C. He also enriches his book with the background of study at the University of Chicago for his B. S. and M .S. degrees and at New York university with other work at Cornell university for his Ph.D.

The author also has written numerous articles in professional journals including "School Science and Mathematics", "Science Education", "The American Biology Teacher", and "School and Society".

26b 1950

Walter White's Book Adapted To Blind Citizens

The full text of Walter White's autobiography, A MAN CALLED WHITE, will shortly be available for the blind on phonograph records. The American Foundation for the Blind, Inc., 15 West 16th Street, New York City has made this possible by inclusion of Mr. White's book in its series which is called "Talking Books" which are sold to the eligible blind who are unable to read Braille or who prefer to listen instead of read with their fingers.

Made possible by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation, books believed to be of lasting value are selected by the Library of Congress and are made available in records to approximately 250,000 blind persons in the United States unable to read Braille and to others able to read Braille but who prefer records.

Mr. White read the first chapter of his autobiography and the rest of the book was read by John Knight. "Talking Books" are supplied to lending libraries for the blind located in principal cities of the United States. Records are loaned in the same fashion as books from lending libraries.

Other authors whose books have been recorded in "Talking Books" are Mrs, Eleanor Roosevelt, Somerset Maugham, Thomas Mann Harry Emerson Fosdick, Jan Struther, Archibald MacLeish, Glenway Wescott, Cornelia Otis Skinner and Arnold J. Tovnbee.

NEW BOOK BY MOREHOUSE PRESIDENT

ATLANTA, Ga., Oct. 24—The latest literary effort by the prolific pen of Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, President of Morehouse College, in Atlanta, Ga., was recently released by Haddam House of New York City (printed by the Association Press.) This book, titled "A Gospel for the Social Awakening," consists of selections from the writings of Walter Rausehenbusch compiled by Dr. Mays, with an introduction by C. Howard Hopkins. The appearance of this highly significant work is especially important at this time, since the ideas of Rausehenbusch are so applicable to our times. Indeed, the Cambridge History of American Literature describes him as "perhaps the most creative spirit in the American theological world," and he was considered by his own generation as a prophet. This book retails for $2.00.

Other books by Dr. B. E. Mays are "The Negro's Church" (co-author), Institute of Social and Religious Research, New York, 1933; "The Negro's God," Chapman and Grimes, Boston, Massachusetts, 1938; and "Seeking to be Christian in Race Relations," Friendship Press, New York, 1946. In addition to the above works, Dr. Mays made contributions to the following: (1) editor of section on "Race" in Christus Victor, edited by Danzig Patrick, World Committee of YMCA, Geneva, Switzerland, 1939; contributed Chapter IX, "The New Negro Challenges the Old Order," A. H. Gordon, Sketches of Negro Life and History in South Carolina, W. B. Conkey & Company, 1929; one of 194 contributors to the Encyclopedia or Religion, by Vergilius Fern, The Philosophical Library, New York, 1945; "The Inescapable Christ," an address included in Representative American Speeches, selected by A. Craig Baird, published by H. W. Wilson and Company, 1944-45; "The Inescapable Christ," a sermon included in Best Sermons, edited by G. Paul Butler, published by Harper and Brothers, New York, 1946; and "The Christian Way in Race Relations," a chapter in the book edited by Stuart Nelson and published by Harpers, 1947.

Dr. Mays has written dozens of articles and book reviews that have been published by such journals and magazines as The Crisis, Christian Century, Journal of Ncgro Education, The Educational Outlook Among Negroes, the Negro Digest, and many others.

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26b 1950

Book Review

Many Omissions in New Folklore Book

A Treasury of Southern Folklore by B. A. Botkin, ed. Crown Publishers. 419 Fourth Ave., New York. 776 pp. $4.00

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

The South is folklore, and especially the South of history. Few people have ever told the truth about the South, and least of all Southerners themselves. They have been so busy defending and rationalizing the persistent errors of their ways that they have had no time and even less inclination to be truthful.

Like those of guilty conscience everywhere and anywhere, Southerners hate analysis. Romanticism has always been their forte, and they have spawned romantic heroes and folk legends with greater profligacy than rabbits breed.

Tales Made True Stories

The remarkable thing is the tremendous skill with which the Southerner has foisted as truth these tales, these myths and these distilled essences of exculpating lies upon the consciousness of the rest of America and the world.

And notably the myth of the ante-bellum South's genteel culture and graciousness; the myth of the slaves' tractibility under slavery; and the impacted myth of Negro-created corruption in Reconstruction.

So skillfully has this intellectual imposition been carried out that even otherwise reputable historians like Burgess, Phillips, Dodd and Haworth have taken the myths over and set them forth as historical truth about the South.

Into the pictures these and other historians and writers (Kennedy, Schollcraft, Page, Dixon, Cohen, Cobb) have drawn, new historical and sociological research is beginning to bring some balance of truth.

Much of this research has been done by colored scholars like Frazier, Johnson, Davis and Franklin; but white humanists are doing their share too, and certainly Arthur Schlesinger Jr., and Herbert Aptheker cannot be overlooked.

Different Scholar

Nor can B. A. Botkin, a scholar of somewhat different stamp. Botkin's field is folklore. He edited the **Treasury of American Folklore** and the **Treasury of New England Folklore** a few years back.

He was head of the W.P.A. writers project during the depression, and afterwards made that splendid collection of Negro folkstuff, **Lay My Burden Down.**

It was this latter book that was so valuable in helping to destroy many of the Southern historical myths by reproducing the tales and sayings of those who were the principal victims of the myths.

This same office is performed by Botkin in **A Treasury of Southern Folklore,** but more by virtue of the introductions written for each section than by the selections the author makes.

Whether Douglass S. Freeman, who wrote the general preface, had anything to do with it one cannot say, but the folk material presented certainly seems to have the Freeman slant, the Freeman obeisance to the notions of the ante-bellum South, of the land where doubtful "heroes hold first place" and where colored people were either incorrigibly "indolent and amusing" or incorrigibly depraved.

I do not see, for instance, how **A Treasury of Southern Folklore** can be so called when it omits the South's greatest folkstuff—the spirituals, the work songs, the sermons and aphorisms of colored people—and I do not see why Botkin has omitted this material except to please the unreconstructed **Freeman.**

A Treasury of Southern Folklore

LOOKS AT BOOKS

West African Language Influence

For many years students of language have been investigating Gullah, the dialect of a large number of Negroes in Coastal South Carolina and Georgia.

Among them the consensus has been "that the peculiarities of the dialect are traceable almost entirely to the British dialects of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries and to a form of baby-talk adopted by masters of the slaves to facilitate oral communication."

Dr. Lorenzo D. Turner is one of those scholars who feel that the influence of several West African languages upon Gullah has been uncommonly great; so much so that Gullah can hardly be proved to be chiefly derived from British dialects.

HENCE IN THIS study "Africanisms in the Gullah Dialect," (University of Chicago Press, $7.50) Dr. Turner aims to record the most important survivals from African languages and to list their equivalents in the West African languages.

Here Gullah is defined as a Creolized form of English revealing survivals from many of the African languages spoke by the slaves brought to South Carolina and Georgia.

This study is the result of an investigation of Gullah that has extended over fifteen years and has already been designated the first really scientific and comprehensive analysis of the dialect, of its African origins, and of its present use among Negroes of the Rice Islands.

"Many Americans who have attempted to explain Gullah have greatly underestimated the extent of the African element in this strange language. Observing many characteristics that Gullah has in common with certain British dialects of the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries, they have not considered it necessary to acquaint themselves with any of the languages spoken in those sections of West Africa from which the Negroes were brought to the New World as slaves."

DR. TURNER PRESENTS four reasons why previous researchers were handicapped: Gullahs are extremely cautious when talking to strangers; the curiosity of strangers annoys Gullahs; when talking to strangers, Gullahs are likely to use speech essentially English, yet their language is different when talking to friends; investigators overlooked the similarity between several West African languages and Gullah.

Scholarly, informative, entertaining, this book is particularly worthwhile. For the Charlestonian and the Savannahian it has especial meaning. It clarifies Gullah (an attention-compellingly colorful aspect of Georgia and South Carolina), which is so much a part of and yet so far removed from these kindly coastal folk.

"Africanisms in the Gullah Dialect's" appeal, therefore, is not alone to the linguist. The layman, too, can profit from a painstaking examination of it.

J. RANDOLPH FISHER
Savannah, Ga.

"A Wind is Rising"

A WIND IS RISING, by William Russell (Scribners, $3). A novel about plantation Negroes of the Mississippi Delta.

"African Dependencies: A Challenge to Western Democracies," by Nwankwo Chukwuemeka, will be published on Feb. 27 by the William-Frederick Press. The author, a Nigerian, presents a study of the resources, commerce and industries of Nigeria and suggestions for the economic development of the dependency. Mr. Chukwuemeka is an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Howard University.

A novel with an African background is scheduled for Feb. 28 publication by Houghton Mifflin, entitled "A Grove of Fever Trees." The author, Daphne Rooke, has lived in Zululand, and her story deals with an English settlement on the African Thornveld.

Books Published Today

AFRICAN DEPENDENCIES: A Challenge to Western Democracy, by Nwankwo Chukwuemeka (William-Frederick, $3.50). A study of Nigeria and suggestions for its economic development.

THE ANGELS FELL, by Bruno Fischer (Dodd, Mead, $2.50). A Red Badge detective story.

CHAPTERS IN A LIFE OF PAUL, by John Knox (Abingdon-Cokesbury, $2.50). "Explorations into Paul's career and his religious experience as revealed in the personal passages in his letters."

THE COLLECTED POEMS OF ISAAC ROSENBERG, edited by Gordon Bottomley and Denys Harding, foreword by Siegfried Sassoon (Schocken Books. $3.50).

CIVIL RIGHTS GAINS FOR 1949 REVIEWED

Progress in winning civil rights for American Negroes in 1949 is reported in the booklet, "American Rights for American Citizens" published yesterday by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"Long-standing color barriers were successfully challenged in widely separated regions of the country and in various fields," the report declares.

"In some instances traditional discriminations were abandoned and entrenched segregation cracked under impact of the association's legal, legislative and educational assault upon anti-democratic practices."

The association's legal staff took part in more than 500 civil rights cases. Among these were the defense of three young men accused of rape in Groveland, Fla.; the Sweatt and McLaurin case attacking the validity of segregation in higher education, and the "white primary" case in South Carolina "establishing the rights of Negroes to participate in Democratic primaries of that state."

An increase in the minimum annual dues from $1 to $2 was held responsible for a decline in total membership of the association from 383,000 in 1948 to 248,676 in 1949. Nevertheless, forty-nine new adult branches, sixty-one youth councils and nineteen college chapters were chartered last year.

Progress Seen In Report of NAACP Sent Out In Booklet

94-Page Booklet Says More than 500 Civil Rights Cases Participated In

Progress in the "enlargement of human rights" is indicated in the booklet, AMERICAN RIGHTS FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS, published today as the annual report of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for the year 1949.

"Long-standing color barriers were successfully challenged in widely separated regions of the country and in various fields," the report asserts. "In some instances traditional discriminations were abandoned and entrenched segregation cracked under impact of the Association's legal, legislative and educational assault upon anti-democratic practices."

The NAACP legal staff, the 94-page booklet points out, participated in more than 500 civil rights cases through the national office, the State Conferences, and the local branches. Among the most outstanding cases were the defense of the three young men accused of rape in Groveland, Fla.; the Sweatt and McLaurin cases attacking the validity of segregation in higher education; and the "white primary" case in South Carolina establishing the right of Negroes to participate in the Democratic primaries of that State.

Due primarily to an increase in the minimum annual dues from $1 to $2, there was a decline in the total membership of the Association from 383,000 in 1948 to 248,676 in 1949. Nevertheless, 49 new adult branches, 61 youth councils, and 19 college chapters were chartered during the year.

On the legislativce front, the NAACP engaged in two major programs: the drive to effect a change in the Senate rules so as to permit limitation of debate by a simple majority vote; and the National Emergency Civil Rights Mobilization. The objective in each instance was to facilitate enactment of FEPC and other civil rights measures.

The illustrated report records the various activities of the Association, including its efforts to surmount racial barriers in education, housing, employment and the armed services; its relationships with the church, organized labor, minority group associations and other organizations; and its defense of Negro citizens unjustly accused of crime.

NAACP Report for 1949 Indicates Progress Made

94-Page Booklet Summarizes Legislative, Legal, Educational Assault Upon Bigotry

NEW YORK—Progress in the "enlargement of human rights" is indicated in the booklet, American Rights for American Citizens, published on Saturday as the annual report of the NAACP for the year 1949.

"Long-standing color barriers were successfully challenged in widely separated regions of the country and in various fields," the report asserts, adding:

"In some instances traditional discriminations were abandoned and entrenched segregation cracked under impact of the association's legal, legislative and educational assault upon anti-democratic practices."

Outstanding Cases Noted

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Among the most outstanding cases were:

The defense of the three young men accused of criminal attack in Groveland, Fla.; the Sweatt and McLaurin cases striking at the validity of segregation in higher education; and the "white primary" case in South Carolina establishing the right of colored citizens to participate in the Democratic primaries of that State.

129 New Units Chartered

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Nevertheless, 49 new adult branches, 61 youth councils and 19 college chapters were chartered during the year, the association points out.

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The report records the association's efforts to surmount racial barriers in education, housing employment and the armed services.

Gertrude Martin

'Promising' Writer, Gwendolyn Brooks Develops Into Pulitzer Prize Winner

CONGRATULATIONS are due Chicago's Gwendolyn Brooks, who last week became the first Negro to win a Pulitzer Prize. Miss Brooks, a Chicagoan, received the award for her book of poems, "Annie Allen," which was published last year. Miss Brooks is a poet of unusual sensitivity and it is good to see her receive the acclaim which is her due. Her first book of poems, "A Street In Bronzeville," was hailed by the critics as the work of a "promising" young writer. In "Annie Allen," Miss Brooks fulfilled the promise.

Other Pulitzer Prizes in the literary field went to A. B. Guthrie, Jr., for his novel, "The Way West," and to the musical, "South Pacific."

NAACP Applauds FEPC Laws In 10 States In 1949

NEW YORK— (ANP)— The annual "Balance Sheet of Race Relations," released here recently by the NAACP, viewed 1949 as a year of "good gains" for the Negro in this country. The report, a seven-page document issued by Roy Wilkins, acting NAACP executive secretary, treated with these points:

1. Failure of Congress to enact federal civil rights legislation.
2. Evidences of progress in state legislation along this line.
3. Political development.
4. Court decisions.
5. Lynchings.
6. Recognition of personal merit of Negroes.

The report accused a coalition of Republicans and southern Democrats of voting "further obstacles to securing effective cloture rules" in Congress, and pointed out that the failure to enact federal civil rights with the increase in unemployment "has made it proportionately more difficult" for Negroes to obtain jobs. In New York, one out of every five members of minority groups seeking work has reported some form of discrimination, despite the state's FEPC law.

However, the report praised the 10 states which adopted FEPC statutes. It mentioned Washington, Oregon, New Mexico and Rhode Island for their FEPC laws; New Jersey for its additional civil rights legislation; Wisconsin and Illinois for laws banning segregation in schools; and the 10 states which have adopted measures to abolish segregation in the national guards Under lynching, the report shows that the number of Negroes killed had increased from two in 1948 to four in 1949. As for mob violence, the report showed increased activity along that line. The lynch victims, all male Negroes were reported in Irwinton and Bainbridge, Georgia, Houston, Miss., and Perry, Florida "No less than 15 others were saved from a similar fate through the quick thinking of themselves or others," the report states.

The work of Dr. Ralph J. Bunche in the Palestine situation, was accorded much praise by the report. Among many honors received by him was the NAACP's 1949 Spingarn award for his achievements. Others noted for outstanding work were Jackie Robinson, Don Newcombe and Roy Campanella of the Brooklyn Dodgers: Willard Savoy, author of "Alien Land" and Bucklin Moon, author of "Without Magnolias."

Bouquets were also given the motion picture industry for its abandonment of the "taboo against treatment of the Negro other than as a stereotype."

The association announced it meeting in Washington on January would hold a three-day civil rights meeting in Washington on Jan. 15-17, to map plans to remind congressmen of their promises.

HARRY HERVEY'S NEW NOVEL

Fine Writing in Slavery-Days Tale

BARRACOON, by Harry Hervey; Putnams; 274 pages; $3.

Slave trading was a thriving business in the 1850s. Profitable, too. The British had flooded the New World with slaves taken in Africa, but now they frowned on the whole nefarious business and were dedicated to stamping out the traffic in "black ivory," as the slaves had come to be known.

This predication sets the scene for this sensitive novel by Harry Hervey, well-known Georgia author, who makes his home in Savannah. The locale is Portuguese Guinea.

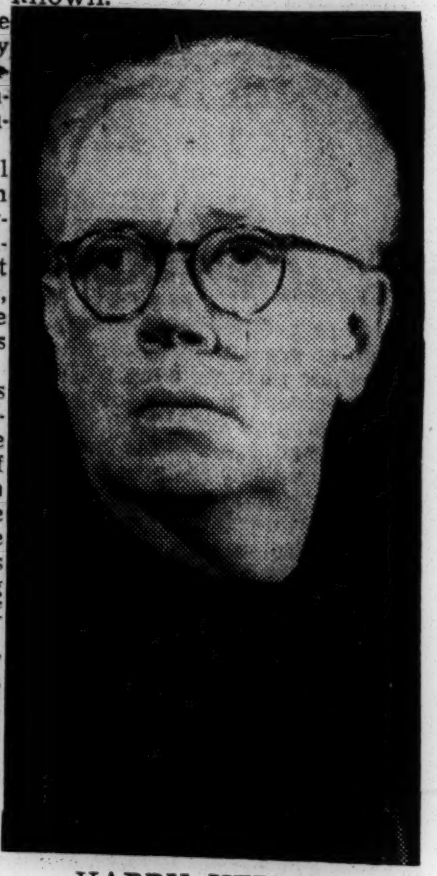
A barracoon, it might be well to explain, is the stockade pen in which slaves were kept. Arsenio da Castro, wealthy Portuguese, was one of the biggest slave traders in the business, maintaining a monster slave factory at what was known as Gallows End.

It was there he brought his child bride, lovely Maria Tristap. Innocent and religious, she was unaware of the nature of her husband's business. When she discovered he was a slave trader, all of her illusions were shattered and she became his bitterest enemy, plotting to bring about his ruin. The plight of the slaves made her heartsick.

How Maria accomplished her mission, in between bitter struggles with her conscience and romance with a handsome young British naval officer on the African Patrol, develops into a yarn spun in the typical Harry Hervey manner that made best sellers out of "School for Destiny," "The Damned Don't Cry" and his other novels.

Hervey's writing is dramatic and boasts a lyrical quality that sets it apart from the ordinary. In "Barracoon" he had added suspense, passion and violence and the net result is a novel of more than passing interest.

SAM F. LUCCHESE



HARRY HERVEY

Gertrude Martin

'Beetlecreek' A Gentle Novel Which Reverses Race Pattern

"BEETLECREEK," by William Demby, is a gentle novel concerned with the loneliness that is so common in the world today. The title is the name of a small Southern town, where a strange man, Bill Trapp, had lived in the Negro section fifteen years without saying a word to anyone. A young Negro boy from Pittsburgh is the first person to whom Trapp speaks and sets in motion the forces which eventually lead to tragedy.

Trapp, Johnny (the boy from Pittsburgh) and his uncle, David Diggs, are alike in their sense of isolation from the rest of the community. Trapp is a white man who had been drifting since his sister's death. Johnny feels left out of the gang and even when invited to join them is repelled by their vulgarity and cruelty; and David had never felt completely at home in Beetlecreek.

The author does not underline the race angle of his story, rather he shows the great distances which separate people, Negro or white. His characterizations are especially well done, and he has a devastating portrait of club women, although he is never harsh or unsympathetic. The descriptive passages are unusually good.

"Beetlecreek" reverses the usual pattern of novels about the South. Bill Trapp, alone in a Negro community, is, in the end, victimized; and in the process, the author shows that man's inhumanity to man is found on either side of the color line. "Beetlecreek" is an excellent first novel, whose only flaw is that it leaves its situation and characters unresolved in the end.

The author, William Demby, is a young Negro who has spent considerable time abroad. He recently returned to Rome after the book's publication.

"Beetlecreek" by William Demby; Rinehart; New York; 1950; $2.50

"A remarkable first novel by a Negro author

. . . Carson McCullers, William Faulkner, and Truman Capote in combination might write a similar book."—*Carl Van Vechten*

BEETLE-CREEK

By WILLIAM DEMBY

"Offers something different in its situation . . . a lonely old white man who lived in the midst of a colored community . . . it may give many readers pause to reflect that people are fundamentally very much alike, regardless of color."
—CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"A talented and sensitive writer has written a serious book. The characters are real and troubled individuals, who bear no relation to the standard types of current fiction."
—N. Y. HERALD TRIBUNE BOOKS

"It would be hard to give Mr. Demby too much praise for the skill with which he has maneuvered the various relationships in his book. At times, one has the feeling that he simply set the scene and named the characters and let them carry on alone from there, so naturally and inevitably does their story develop to its ending."
—THE NEW YORKER

"The power is there; the compassion for men of all races; the cry-in-the-night for human understanding and human decency. . . . This novel most certainly deserves some honor like the George Washington Carver Award and a place high on the best seller list."
—*Sterling North*, N. Y. WORLD-TELEGRAM & THE SUN

$2.50 at all bookstores

RINEHART & COMPANY

New York 16

A Powerful First Novel

Devastating Twist on Prejudice

By Sterling North

BEETLECREEK. By William Demby. Rinehart. 218 pp. $2.50.

SO SUBTLE and pervasive is the power of prejudice, that only through the most unpredictable plot twists can the literary moralist make the average reader admit and challenge his own bigotry.

In recent years, only three novels have done it successfully: "Kingsblood Royal," by Sinclair Lewis; "Gentleman's Agreement," by Laura Z. Hobson, and now "Beetlecreek," by William Demby.

DEMBY

None of these books is a masterpiece. Each has a tricky twist which militates against the smooth inevitability of great fiction. But the "twisteroo" (as they call it in Hollywood story conferences) is precisely what the author was forced to devise to catch the reader off guard.

In "Kingsblood Royal," as you will remember, Sinclair Lewis completely establishes the fact that Neil Kingsblood, "red-headed, blue-eyed, stalwart, cheerful, and as free of scholarship as he is of malice," is a typical young Babbitt of Grand Republic, Minn.; a thoroughly standardized Caucasian suburbanite and an asssitant cashier in the local bank. Because he is so obviously an undistinguished member of the great American majority, the reader accepts him completely and perhaps even indentifies himself with the hero.

Then Lewis slips through the reader's guard with a damaging left hook. Kingsblood finds to his amazement that he has Negro blood in his veins. And instead of hiding the evidence, he reveals it. Against his will, the reader is immediately involved in a major moral problem. He cannot help asking himself, "What would I have done in a similar situation?" And, if he is honest, he will have to admit that some part of race prejudice is dangerous poppycock if not actual mass insanity.

Lonely Old Eccentric

LAURA HOBSON was equally crafty in her approach. Phil Green, a magazine writer who is not a Jew, poses as a Jew to gather material for a series of articles on anti-Semitism. Overnight, this typical, clean-cut Nordic male begins to feel the slurs, sneers and restrictions of the "Gentleman's Agreement." The honest reader is once again shocked into an unwilling admission by being made to feel how viciously unjust the whole pattern of race relations must seem to a member of the minority.

William Demby, a young Negro writer, has come up with a plot twist at least as effective as those concocted by Lewis and Hobson.

In "Beetlecreek" he portrays a community populated entirely by Negroes with the single exception of an eccentric old white man by the name of Bill Trapp. Trapp has had a lonely life. As an adopted orphan, his only friendships have been those with his "sister" and with an old, drunken Italian trapeze artist and dog-trainer (both dead years ago). Trapp has retired to a tiny farm in the Negro community of Beetlecreek. And, feeling unwanted and lost, he has lived to himself for 15 years, becoming a frightening legend to his Negro neighbors.

Hungry for human companionship, Trapp makes friends with Johnny Johnson, a visiting Negro boy from Pittsburgh whom he catches stealing apples. Slowly other children gather the courage to visit his shack.

Then Trapp makes his fatal mistake. He plans a party for his new friends; the Negro children and also a few white youngsters who have ventured over from the other side of the creek.

What then befalls has about it an inevitability which the more professional novels by Lewis and Hobson lack. The irony is more profound. The plot twist more devastating.

'Turn the Tables'

SUSPECTED of being a sex fiend (which he is not), the kindly, simple old white man becomes the object of fantastic slander and blazing race prejudice. The Negro preacher who has accepted his wheelbarrow load of pumpkins for the festival now preaches against him. Tongues wag at the barber shop and the beer tavern. The foul-mouthed young Negro hoodlums begin planning their vicious revenge.

Slim, the small-time adjunct to the numbers racket, puts it succinctly: "Now you turn the tables on this thing. Make like there was a colored man lived all by hisself in a white part of town . . . and he starts all this monkey business with white girls, mind ya, what do you think would happen to him? You just pick up any newspaper from the last few years and read what happened to them Scottsboro boys."

There are flaws in this first novel. The character of Trapp is not completely convincing. In his desire to do absolute justice, Mr. Demby has perhaps overidealized his white eccentric. The author has followed the almost universal tendency of young contemporary novelists to flaunt four-letter words. And the dreamlike, episodic structure of the story lacks cohesion, particularly in the early chapters.

But the power is there; the compassion for men of all races; the cry in the night for human understanding and human decency. And when one realizes the depth and breadth of character it takes for a young Negro to admit that prejudice is a universal failing—a poison which works in the brains of the minorities as well as the ruling majority—you have some measure of William Demby. This novel most certainly deserves some honor like the George Washington Carver Award and a place high on the best seller list.

'Beneath the Sky' Will Arouse Your Indignation

"Beneath the Sky," by A. Q. Jarrette (The Weinberg Book Supply Company, 261 West 125th Street, New York, N. Y. $2.75), will arouse indignation in the hearts of all thinking people who read it.

The characters of this novel of love and murder among the poor whites and Negroes of the deep South appear to be made up of real, typical people.

Jim Robinson, fiftyish, and a wealthy Northern banker and plantation owner whose parents migrated to South Carolina; mistreats and murders his wife, mistrusts and questions his son—all for his infatuation over the 16-year-old daughter of one Jake Logan, an unreconstructed sharecropping peckerwood, who is overseer on his plantation.

YOU'LL SHUDDER at the familiar lynch scene involving Willie Johnson, teen-aged Negro boy who made the mistake of innocently swimming with Jake Logan's youngest daughter in the plantation swimming hole.

The stark duplicity of the Southern system is laid bare in the prayer and circumstances of Daisy Johnson and her young surviving son. Her testimony and evidence while employed in the Robinson home leads to his conviction of murder.

His son, Frank, resolves to marry Margaret, the sharecropper's daughter, but not before Lucille Logan kills her husband, Jake, in one of his abusive fits upon their daughter.

HANDSEL G. BELL

Berkeley, Calif.

"Best Short Stories" by- Afro-American Writers

'Best Seller Material,' Publishers Call Anthology

BALTIMORE

"Best Short Stories by AFRO-AMERICAN Writers," which is being published by the Meador Press, Boston, Mass., is "the kind of book we expect to be a best seller," according to a recent statement by the publishers.

The anthology, which consists of the 40 best short stories published in the AFRO during the past 25 years, is edited by Nick Aaron Ford and H. L. Faggett, professors of English at Morgan State College.

Prefer Magazine Section

The Foreword by Carl Murphy tells something of the history of the AFRO and why this newspaper has felt it necessary during the 58 years of its existence to publish each week along with its news coverage the best short stories by the most talented writers of the race.

Mr. Murphy declares, "As government and life become more complex, there is an increasing number of readers who say: 'What's the world coming to, anyway? You take the news; I'll take the magazine section!"

One New York publisher, who made an unsuccessful bid for publication of the book, said in a letter to the editors:

"I am very much impressed with the stories in this anthology. They are all interesting, significant, and of high literary quality. Any publisher should be proud to publish such a book."

The contract with the Meador Press sets the publication date for early next month.

26b 1950

"The Bewitched Parsonage"

THE BEWITCHED PARSONAGE: The Story of the Brontes, by William Stanley Braithwaite (Coward-McCann, $3.50). A biography.

26b 1950

Bibliography on Southern Literary Culture
Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Ala.

Two Master's Degree Theses
Hampton Institute, Graduates.

Hamptonians' Theses In Southern Bibliography

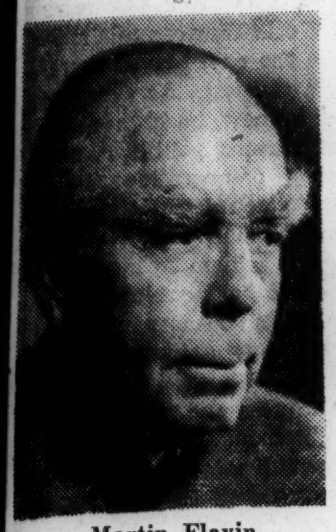
AUBURN, Ala. — Two Master's degree theses by Hampton Institute graduates are to be listed in the Bibliography of Southern Literary Culture at the Alabama Polytechnic Institute here, Walter R. Patrick, head of the Auburn Department of English, stated this week.

The theses and the authors are: "The History and Development of the Atlanta Daily World," by Sadie M. Oliver (B. S., Education, '38; M. A., 1942) and "A Biography of William Wells Brown," by Mattye B. Guy (Kentucky State College graduate who received the M. A. degree at Hampton Institute in 1948).

Books of the Times

By ORVILLE PRESCOTT

WHEN Martin Flavin went to Africa several years ago he was 65 years old, not past the age of de luxe cruises but a long way past the age at which most men would set off on a strenuous jaunt into the Congo. Mr. Flavin had been in China in his young days when he was a business man. In his middle years he had turned to writing and had produced fourteen plays and four novels, among them such popular plays as "Children of the Moon" and "The Criminal Code," and such popular novels as "Mr. Littlejohn" and "The Enchanted." He traveled by himself in the Union of South Africa, in the Bechuanaland Protectorate and in the Belgian Congo. His book about what he saw is called "Black and White."*



Martin Flavin

It is a highly personal book which fits into no convenient category. It lacks the charm, the smooth writing and the wide range of material of a top-notch travel book like H. V. Morton's "In Search of South Africa." It lacks the facts and figures and tightly packed information of Tom Marvel's "The New Congo." Mr. Flavin has not tried to present a general picture of anything. What he has done is to write well about Martin Flavin in Africa and what interested him there. What particularly interested him was the impact of white civilization on black Africans.

Most of "Black and White" is about the Congo. But before Mr. Flavin entered that section of "the vast sad wilderness of Africa" he had two experiences which he describes with all the sharp observation and sensitive feeling of a trained writer. At Johannesburg he went nearly to the bottom of a gold mine, the Durban Roodepoort Deep.

Contrasts in Lives of Natives

In the heat and the dripping water 7,500 feet below the surface the black miners toil. Mr. Flavin's account of them is vivid and extremely interesting, not only for its reporting, but also for its sympathetic response to the plight of the contract laborers, humiliated, regimented and scorned. The color line is enforced in South Africa with contemptuous cruelty and with more degrading results than anywhere else in the world.

In Bechuanaland Mr. Flavin visited Tshekedi Khama, the acting chief and regent of the Bamangwato in his capital of Serowe. He found that nearly absolute ruler, an intelligent but not unusually gifted man, struggling heroically to help his primitive people take the first steps in an educational program. The odds were heavy against him and Tshekedi was not making much progress. Whether he could accomplish much before white civilization overwhelmed his people was doubtful.

*BLACK AND WHITE. By Martin Flavin. 332 pages. Harper. $4

In the Congo Mr. Flavin traveled extensively and liked the atmosphere better. The 13,000,000 Negroes speaking more than 100 languages who inhabit it are ruled by only 40,000 whites. And the Belgian rule, Mr. Flavin thinks, is an enlightened effort to "civilize" the natives and to create, eventually, a new black nation. Negroes are trained in the Congo in scores of skills which are barred to them by law in South Africa. But the money for schools and hospitals and public health and transport systems comes from the profits of the copper and uranium industries of the Katanga and from the tropical plantations. Mr. Marvel in "The New Congo" thought that the basic factor in the Congo was profits for Belgians. Mr. Flavin takes a kindlier view and thinks that it is the welfare of the natives.

Vistas of Far Journeying

But he does not overlook the corrupting effects of mines and cities, white men's diseases and meaningless (to the native) labor for the white men. There are misery and apathy and a sharply falling birth rate in the Congo as well as improved crops and sanitation. Traveling by railroad, airplane, automobile and paddle steamer, Mr. Flavin covered a lot of territory. He went from Elizabethville in the Katanga to Usumbura in Ruanda-Urundi, to the great national parks, Kagera and Albert, to Stanleyville and down the Congo itself to Leopoldville. He saw pygmies and natives with dish-shaped lips and elongated heads (it makes them smarter!). He met a number of dreary missionaries and saw one admirable medical mission. He encountered flat tires, bad food, poor lodgings and territory "littered" with elephants.

But it was the mountain kingdom of Ruanda-Urundi which interested him most. That tiny region one-fifth the size of Belgium, where an aristocratic pastoral class rules a peasant agricultural class to the complete happiness of both, fascinated Mr. Flavin. He has described it at much greater length than anything else in "Black and White," its history, social organization, religious beliefs, folk lore and spectacular scenery with actively erupting volcanoes. It is there that a village of 3,000 is situated twelve miles from the nearest water supply. Two or three times a week the women walk twenty-four miles a day to bring back water on their heads.

"As a matter of fact, I dare say, from many angles, one might as well be strolling, with a jug of water nicely balanced on one's head, along a pleasant, shaded forest trail, surrounded by companions with whom to laugh and gossip, with no need to hurry and no clock at hand to mark the flight of time, with the privilege to pause and rest one's self, in beds of fern beneath great spreading trees—one might as well be doing something of that sort as standing for eight hours beside an endless belt, putting nuts on motorcars; or sitting at a typewriter, hammering out a book."

Africa's Darkest Side

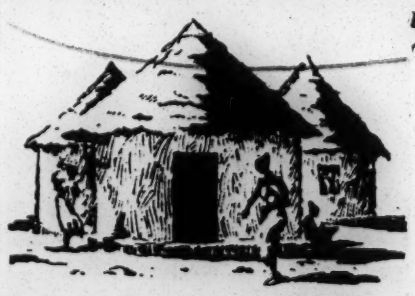
BLACK AND WHITE. By Martin Flavin. Illustrated by Paul Whitman. 332 pp. New York: Harper & Brothers. $4.

By JOHN BARKHAM

WHAT happens when a veteran playwright turned novelist, accustomed to posing and solving problems of his own creation, finds himself face to face with a real-life problem so vast that it defies solution?

Such is the perplexing situation which greets the reader of this book. Mr. Flavin, a decorated popular story-teller, recently made a journey through Southern Africa and ran headlong into its crushing color problem. It was a shock for him to step from his own familiar world into one of white humans and black subhumans —where this feudal differentiation was not only accepted as natural but was enshrined as legal.

These things caused Mr. Flavin much anguish. Hence, his opening section, a description of



By Paul Whitman for "Black and White."

a Johannesburg gold mine, burns with wrath. How long, he asks, can a white Herrenvolk hold down its black labor pool? Alas, our novelist, for all his facility with predicaments of his own devising, has no answer for this one. "The problem isn't mine," he pleads, then adds: "I thought we had a color problem in the United States—till I came to Africa."

The first part of the book, reflecting Africa's impact on an American, is easily the best. Being a man of compassion, Mr. Flavin was aroused by the plight of the urbanized Negroes. The tribal Bantu, living in their primitive *kraals* far from the cities of the white man, fitted more nearly his sense of rightness.

THE farther north Mr. Flavin went, the better he felt. In the Belgian Congo he discovered an enlightened color policy that was paying off for the whites. Negroes were doing responsible work in their education toward self-government. Belgian colonial policy aimed upward, where South Africa's had only the fixity of rigor mortis.

Mr. Flavin's prose, while perishable, glows and gleams as would no ordinary traveler's. That explains why the reader will come out of this book with a good idea of what is right and what is wrong with Africa.

A native of South Africa, Mr. Barkham is a frequent writer on African affairs.

A Novelist Finds Real Color Line

Edited by Harrison Smith

BLACK AND WHITE, by Martin Flavin. Harper. 332 pp. $4.

MR. FLAVIN, a novelist turned traveler, made a journey from the Cape of Good Hope to the Congo last year and discovered a great deal about Africa he had not known before. His journey, as chronicled in this handsome and readable volume, turned out to be as instructive as it was enjoyable.

"I used to think," he records, "that we had a Negro problem in the United States—until I got to South Africa."

There he ran smack into the rigid color line which makes herrenvolk of the whites and serfs of the blacks. He went down a Johannesburg gold mine and watched sweating, half-naked Negroes mining the wealth they were not permitted to share, a sight that filled him with an indignation he does not bother to conceal.

Mr. Flavin's trip was not long enough or comprehensive enough to probe much beneath the surface, but, as the report of a well-intentioned, unbiased American, his book makes colorful and worthwhile reading.

MARTIN FLAVIN

successful Broadway playwright

and Pulitzer Prize novelist turns traveller . . .

and the result is delightful

New York Times Book Review

Feb. 12, 1950

BLACK and WHITE

From the Cape to the Congo

Anyone who enjoys colorful accounts of far-off places will revel in BLACK AND WHITE. Combining Martin Flavin's skills as dramatist and storyteller, BLACK AND WHITE is rich in his special brand of wry humor, worldly wisdom and sharp perception.

Here are vivid stories of the Durban Deep, where half-enslaved natives burrow a mile underground for gold to be shipped off and buried in a hole in Kentucky. Here are stories of the Great Experiment of the Congo where a few Belgians are making a bold, humane—and profitable—attempt to civilize a savage people. Witch doctors and missionaries, pygmies and giants, gold-enslaved and gold-wealthy, black and white, here are the people of Africa brought to life in a traveller's report unlike any travel book ever written.

Illustrated with 5 full-page and 10 half-page drawings by Paul Whitman.

$4.00

Rhapsody and Rumor

BLUES FOR THE PRINCE. By Bart Spicer. 249 pp. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co. $2.50.

THE Prince, a fabulous Negro composer of jazz classics, has been shot down in his prime. It is not so much a question of whodunit. The problem concerns an ugly rumor that the Prince stole all that great music from his unknown arranger. Private Detective Carney Wilde, a young white man with a deep reverence for jazz and a sensible contempt for racial prejudice, sets out to preserve the Prince's shining reputation.

On the subject of jazz, the author is erudite and interesting, but his first person narrator is that tireless and by now fairly tiresome private eye who usually packs a "persuader," invariably "shrugs" into his topcoat, and "manages a leer" for every dame in sight.

HILLIS MILLS.

book review.....

Informer. Dat. 7-15-50

By Bart Spicer

BLUES FOR THE PRINCE

(Reviewed by Marian Fussey)

The world of entertainment was blue because the Prince was dead. Harold Morton Prince, famed composer of blues and jazz, "had been found in his studio with a bullet in his chest," writes Bart Spicer Author of Blues for the Prince.

The newspapers were filled with pictures of the Prince and his life story was traced from his high school days to the end. They told about his first song, "Red Devil Blues" and his folk operetta, "Sunset in Harlem."

The Prince was a great man. He was the Prince of blues in every sense of the word. However, minutes after his death rumor began to cast an ugly shadow upon his reputation.

Houston, Texas

Carney Wilde, private investigator, and a figment of the author's imagination, was hired by a young Negro phisician who was engaged to the Prince's daughter. He was not hired to find the killer, but to clear the Prince's name. The police already had the killer.

But Wilde was not satisfied. Little by little he began to uncover evidence which caused him to doubt that the police had the right man.

The die was cast. Those closest to the Prince were now suspects. Martha, the Prince's daughter who claimed to have hated her father and who resented Wilde from the beginning; the musicians at Manny Brenner's Hot Box who at one time or the other played "Hot Music" with the Prince; the Prince's father who had resigned himself to the fact that he would soon die; and the young Doctor Owens who worshipped the Prince yet loved Martha were closely entangled in the web of chance.

Carney Wilde soon realized that he was surrounded by people who were emotionally unstabled and who persisted in making his job a difficult one. However, regardless of obstacles and the reluctant cooperation of the police who did not want to release their first suspect, Wilde discovered trails leading to the elusive Arabella Joslin who proved to be the main cog in the mystery wheel.

Finally, the answer to all of the baffling questions suddenly seemed so obvious and as strange as it was inevitable.

Blues for the Prince is a mystery with suspense and thrills. It also portrays the musical achievement of the Negro in the highest form and avoids the common southern dialect which most authors cast on Negro characters.

Bart Spicer unravels this mystery in a natural and easy manner. As you read the book, you lose the racial identity of the characters except in a few cases which are indeed necessary to establish the emotional instability of some of the people involved. You think only of human beings as human beings with a problem that needs to be solved.

Book Review

BUT THE MORNING WILL COME by Cid Ricketts Sumner. Bobbs-Merrill Co. Indianapolis. 244 pp. $3.00.

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

Cid Ricketts Sumner's new novel is better than the one from which the movie **Pinky** was made. Both the movie and the book—**Quality**—set forth the dilemma of a fair-skinned colored girl caught between her desire to marry a white man and her consciousness of her colored blood.

The problem was posed as a moral problem, and the badly reactionary thesis was that colored blood is such bad blood that it must not be mingled with the blood of other peoples. Those people who hide their racial taint to marry white are wicked.

Not Distorted

In **But the Morning Will Come,** the theme is again this taint of blood, but this time Mrs. Sumner does not distort it to fit a racist morality.

When Bentley Carr, a small-town nobody, marries Phillip Churston, she has no idea that he is "tainted." Had she known, she would not have married him of course.

All she knew was that Phillip was a Churston of Cedar Bluff, a plantation in Mississippi, and that the Churstons were somebody. Poor now, but proud, respected, leaders in that faded society of unfairly dispossessed.

Installed in the big house, where a Churston aunt presides, Bentley is happy in a puzzled sort of way. She cannot figure out why her husband treats the colored servants so abominably, but she does not protest when Phillip explains that that is the way they have to be treated.

The Churstons have handled colored people for generations. When she becomes pregnant, Bentley does not understand why Miss Kate Churston wants her to have an abortion.

But Miss Kate was a queer one anyway, with her wig and her D.A.R., and her windy stories of the family's old glory and her murder mysteries. She is puzzled that Phillip is content to let his mother rot in the State insane asylum, but she dares not ask about this.

Extraordinary Fortitude

Then one day Bentley finds some old letters, and she understands. Three or four generations back, a headstrong, passionate Churston had loved and married a mulatto.

Bentley is horror-struck. She herself married to a colored man! She herself about to bear a colored man's child! With extraordinary fortitude, she keeps her knowledge secret until she can learn to live with it. After all, she is a Churston now.

But there is a deeper problem which events—the arrival of Phillip's mad mother, the discovery of Phillip's unfaithfulness with a colored girl, a threatened lynching—force her to face. But two intelligent friends show her a solution.

Eliza Stockbridge, a Northern sociologist, and Jeff Wheeling, a Southerner educated in the North, finally make her see that the tragedy of the Churstons was not in the fact of their having colored blood, but in the hiding of it. Thus in the end, Bentley resolves that her ow nson shall know of his background and that the knowledge will give him strength.

The narrative of **"But the Morning Will Come,"** is powerful, dramatic. The writing, which is generally competent, is sometimes a little overdone — a little too rich where it should be lean and jewelled where it should be stark and bare. But still the reader is moved by page after page, and one sets the book down with a conviction of its truth.

The Farmers' Future Is In Safe Hands

CLEAR evidence that colored farmers, who have been exposed to the influence of the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture during 1949, have made considerable progress in meeting the South's ever-changing farm economy, is contained in a report on Negro Extension work recently released by Mr. T. M. CAMPBELL, Extension Service field agent, of Tuskegee Institute.

Mr. CAMPBELL's report for the fiscal year 1948-49, which was prepared for the Division of Field Coordination, is based upon his personal contacts, observations and reports submitted by state and county Extension agents. It can, therefore, be said to have the full weight of responsibile authority when it reveals a "number of encouraging and outstanding successes."

"One of the developments of greatest significance," the report observes, "is the concerted effort by Extension agents to encourage farmers to depend more upon themselves in financing their farming operations instead of the advance system to feed their families and operate their farms. Extension Service is making some pretty rapid strides in teaching farmers how to change their economy."

This is just another way of saying that Extension Service representatives have taken it upon themselves to discourage participation in the South's iniquitous share-cropper system with all of its evil concomitants. If they had done nothing else, and had expended their efforts in no other direction during the year, their program would have been eminently worthwhile.

But that they did much more is plainly indicates in the bulk of their reports. These reveal, among other things, substantial progress among colored farmers in beef cattle and dairying, poultry and hog raising, gardening, culture of strawberries and other small fruits and marketing, all of which is having a tendency to make the farmer more confident and self-sustaining.

Another outstanding development in Extension Service during the year has been soil conservation through terracing, draining and cover crops, the CAMPBELL report shows.

It is likewise worthy of more than passing note that another progress sign of vital importance as revealed in the report, is the general improvement of homes, and sanitary and health conditions among the Nation's Negro farmers. Largely responsible for this notable progress are the Home Demonstration agents who go into these homes and teach housewives how to balance their families' diets, and encourage the drinking of more milk.

Significantly, it is shown that the unceasing work of the county agricultural agents has grown steadily during the year in the matter of cooperative buying and marketing. This has been reflected in the realization on the part of a steadily-increasing number of farmers that production is not the only factor, and that unless they have some system of marketing cooperatively, their production efforts will go only a short way toward meeting their financial needs.

All of these signs of progress on the part of our farmers, who seldom get the credit they deserve, are heartening indeed. They suggest very strongly that their welfare, as well as their future, is in safe hands.

HER BOOK ACCLAIMED— Dr. Stella Brookes, Chairman of the English Department, Clark College, has been nationally acclaimed for her recent work, Joel Chandler Harris Folklorist, which is to be released September 25. The book, reviewed several weeks ago through the columns of this paper, makes a substantial contribution to the study of American literature and American folklore. Among many commentators and book review editors who have commended the author include A. H. Guyton, President, American Folklore Society; Oscar Campbell, Executive Director, Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University; Julia Collier Harris, Carl Sandburg, Stith Thompson, Dean, Graduate School, Indiana University; Ralph McGill, editor, The Atlanta Constitution; Thomas English, Curamorial Collection, Emory University and others.

Dr. Stella Brookes' Book Receives Wide Acclaim

Critics who have examined advance copies of Joel Chandler Harris: FOLKLORIST by Dr. Stella Brewer Brookes, Chairman of Clark College's English Department have commended the scholarship of the volume and have stated the significance of the book in supplying a distinct need in the study of American literature and American folklore. The book was released September 25. Some of the outstanding commentaries are

"The by-line of JOEL CHANDLER HARRIS: Folklorist, should read: Stella Brewer Brookes, Folklorist. The author's training in this field has enlarged her natural comprehension of the wider historic and cultural significance of the Uncle Remus stories. Her systematic analysis of the material as Trickster Tales, Myths, Proverbs, Sayings, and Folksong serves to enhance the essential cleverness and poignancy of Harris' renderings of these plantation tales. Her book will bring a new appreciation of Harris to the general reading public: it should be in every library." A. G. Gayton, President, American Folklore Society.

"The author draws a clear and interesting picture of the sources of Harris' acquaintance with the life of the before-the-war Negroes and especially of their native gift for narrative and their humor. Her analysis of the Uncle Remus books preserves to a remarkable degree their distinctive quality, and her examples of the songs, myths, ghost and devil tales, and other bits of folklore appearing in Harris' books are well chosen to clarify the nature of folklore in the Uncle Remus stories. Mrs. Brookes' study is scholarly, well written and vastly entertaining. It will be prized not only by the thousands of Americans with whom Uncle Remus has long been a favorite, but also by all students of American literture and folklore." Oscar James Campbell, Executive Director Department of English and Comparative Literature Columbia University.

"JOEL CHANDLER HARRIS: Folklorist is a valuable book from every viewpoint. In it Mrs. Brookes scholarship and knowledge of her subject are obvious, yet she is never pedantic. On the contrary, her book is full of interest and charm." Julia Collier Harris.

"The lovable Joel Chandler Harris gets his due in this book. How he got his story is here made into a story." Carl Sandburg.

"This book is interestingly written and gives an excellent estimate of the importance of American-Negro folklore to the work of Harris. Every student of American folklore would gain much insight into the relation of folklore and literature by reading this stimulating work." Stith Thompson, Dean, Graduate School, Indiana University.

"Mrs. Brookes has done a pioneer Job and a yeoman service segregating and correlating Harris the writer and Harris the Folklorist." B. A. Botkin.

"Stella Brewer Brookes' JOEL CHANDLER HARRIS: FOLKLORIST meets a long existent need in the study of Southern folklore and literature. Joel Chandler Harris had an ear for dialect, but he had also what every great folklorist must have, namely, an understanding of and a spiritual kinship with the people whose folklore he was expressings. Mrs. Brookes' book is a very fine contribution to folklore literature." Ralph McGill, Editor THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION.

"Uncle Remus is by far the richest and most outstanding folk character that America has given the world. People interested in American folklore, particularly Negro folklore, will be grateful to the RIS.

FOLKLORE Mrs. Brookes has brought together, in an economical way, all that is to be said on the subject."- J. Frank Dobie.

"For the first time we have a comprehensive state of the relationship between Harris' sources and the Uncle Remus tales as the American people have come to know and love them. The research has been soundly done, the book well written, and the format made agreeable to the eye."-Louis C. Jones Director, New York Historical Association and Vice-President, American Folklore Society.

"The folklore of the Uncle Remus tales has been too long neglected; good generalizations have been made, but detailed investigation has so far been lacking. Mrs. Brookes deserves the thanks of all readers of Mr. Harris and students of American literature for providing the first full-length study by a competent specialist."-Thomas H. English, Curator, Joel Chandler Harih Memorial Collection, Emory University.

Dr. Brookes, when presented by Psi Chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority spoke with deep appreciation of those persons who read and appraised her book. She was particularly grateful to three Atlantans Mrs. Julia Collier Harris, who was most helpful and kind to her; Mr. Ralph McGill of the Atlanta Constitution and Dr. Thomas English of Emory University and to many others who showed interest in her publication.

Uncle Remus and Co.

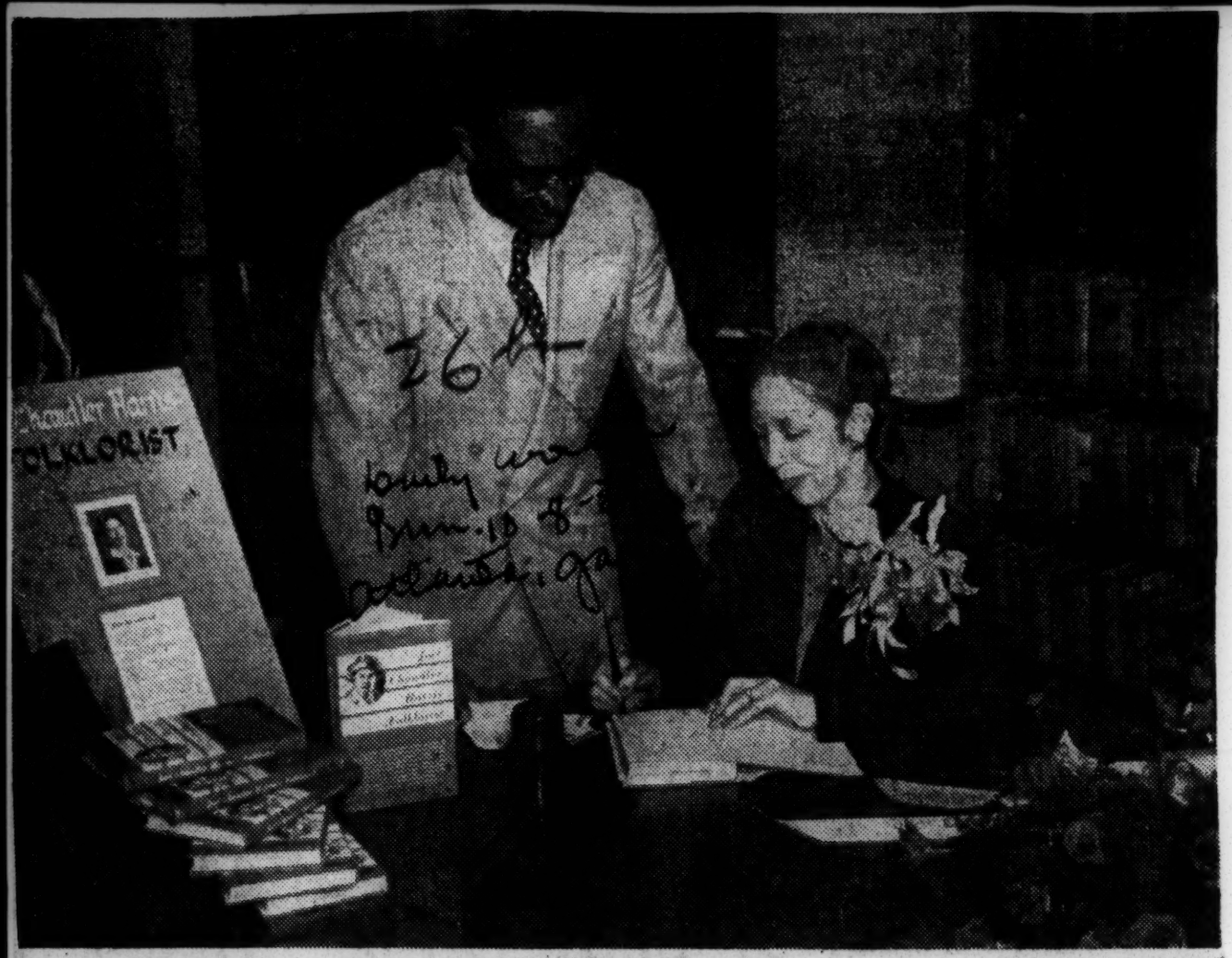
JOEL CHANDLER HARRIS—FOLKLORIST. By Stella Brewer Brookes. 182 pp. Athens: University of Georgia Press. $4.

NOT long ago people of goodwill but limited understanding were calling Disney's film "Song of the South," based on the Uncle Remus books, a Jim Crow movie. Neither timid nor naive, Mrs. Brookes is not deceived by a line of reasoning which would reject Greek art because Athenian society was based on slavery. Instead, she reminds us that Uncle Remus is a fine American contribution to world literature and that the stories, songs and sayings put into his mouth by Harris are worthy of study—for example, in this volume of folk expression.

Harris was not a conventional folklorist, but an artist using folk stuff. Mrs. Brookes quotes approvingly Twain's statement that Uncle Remus' "stories are only alligator pears—one eats them merely for the sake of the dressing." She follows Harris' suggestion that scholars pick out of literature the desired folk elements "with as little cackling as possible."

Thirteen scholars and laymen read this work before its public release; eight of them wrote the blurbs printed on the jacket; apparently not one of them noticed that the bibliography is extremely faulty.

SHIELDS McILWAINE.



AUTHOR AUTOGRAPHS BOOK—Shown with Dr. Stella Brewer Brookes, professor of English, Clark College, is Dr. L. D. Reddick, director of the Atlanta University Library, receiving an autographed copy of Joel Chandler Harris: Folklorist (Photo by C. Sykes).

Redistilling The Scottsboro Hogwash

COURTROOM, by Quentin Reynolds, Farrar, Straus and Company, 53 East 34th Street, New York 16, N. Y., 419 pages —$3.75

"Two Southern Ladies" . . . "And Nine Southern Boys."

The subject matter is clear enough to any Alabamian who remembers two decades back. And any one recognizing the allusions will be nauseated by the venom of the two phrases.

For those who came late, the "Southern ladies" in question are two white women hoboes (with morals to match) who attained a certain kind of international notoriety by being raped by several (perhaps not all) of nine young Negroes on the same train. The "nine Southern boys" are of course the Negroes in the repeatedly resurrected "Scottsboro case."

COURTROOM is a typical Quentin Reynolds version of the life story to now of Samuel S. Leibowitz, who was the second to see the publicity possibilities in making a cause celebre out of the "Scottsboro case." The first was an admitted Communist organization called itself the "International Labor Defense," with which Leibowitz himself finally broke in disgust.

This book and another that has received even wider attention probably because it was given more irresponsible ballyhoo, have once again turned the spotlight of public attention on the little north Alabama town of Scottsboro. Publishers of the other (heretofore presumably responsible) went so far in their efforts to attract attention to theirs (allegedly co-authored by one of the nine) as to announce baldly and without one hint of truth that the book was banned in Alabama. Later they attempted to twist the "ban" into an action of their own.

Reduced to its simple equation, the Scottsboro trials suggest only the prime question of all trials: "Guilty or not guilty?"

In the first series of trials (before Leibowitz), a return to the record will show one startling truth: There was never a denial of the rape charge. Each defendant in turn denied his own guilt but charged the others with that guilt. And in subsequent trials, an impartial eyewitness, the Hobo Carter, testified to the assaults.

If these nine were found guilty "beyond reasonable doubt" by a wide selection of jurors in Morgan County, then what's all the fuss about? If not, then the South-baiters who prefer the label "liberal" should recognize the fact that they are not indicting the people of one isolated Alabama county, nor the people of one Bible-belt state. They are indicting the entire jury system.

Of course they can point (as Quentin Reynolds does not fail to do, and as Leibowitz did, and as the I. L. D. did) to the fact that no Negro was on the juries trying them. That is true. And the cases were thrown out once on that fact. That is an error the deep South will not make again on cases such as this. (But parenthetically, by way of posing a hypothetical supposition: If I were a Negro in the deep South, guilty of the crime with which I was charged, I'd know my chances of acquittal were much better with an all-white jury. And if I were innocent, I'd still prefer drawing a sharp race line.)

But probably all this is hogwash. A waste of time and space. The morals of "two Southern ladies" and the guilt or innocence of "nine Southern boys" concern no one today. The important thing, to so many individuals, is the personal publicity for those who have something to sell, whether it be books, or legal talent, or whatever.

—W. J. MAHONEY, JR.

RACE RELATIONS IN 1949 SUMMARIZED IN BOOKLET

NEW YORK—During 1949 the various states enacted more civil rights laws in any previous years, according to "Civil Rights in the United States in 1949," the second annual balance sheet of group relations, published today jointly by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the American Jewish Congress.

In a foreword to the 71-page booklet, Roy Wilkins, acting NAACP secretary, and David W. Petegorsky, AJC executive director, observe that while progress was made during the year, "racist patterns of conduct still shape most of our lives."

"The major portion of the task still lies ahead," they say. "We have made progress, but not nearly enough. This progress, too, we must remember, has been achieved during a period of relative economic prosperity, the most favorable condition for such gains. If discrimination is to be abolished during our lifetime, our rate of progress will have to be greatly accelerated. The groundwork is being gradually laid but we shall have to move much more rapidly in building the structure.'

The booklet summarizes advances and setbacks during the year in the fields of law enforcement, suffrage, employment, education, housing, public accommodations, immigration and naturalization, armed forces, voluntary associations, sports, press, radio and theatre, and other areas.

Booklet Tells Of Progress In Race Relations

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Books and Authors

"Civil Rights in the United States," by Alison Reppy, dean of the New York Law School, has been scheduled for Jan. 1 publication by the Central Book Company, 261 Broadway. It is an analysis of the developments of civil rights in the United States and the relationship to military authority, the Federal criminal code, labor and the Four Freedoms.

26b 1950

Crime Report-Department of Justice

Ratio of Executions in U.S. 81-35 in '48

WASHINGTON

Despite the fact that less than 10 per cent of the United States population are members of the colored race, more than half of those who were "legally excuted" during the year of 1948 were non-whites.

Only 35 white persons were put to death in the 42 States where capital punishment is permitted by law (not counting the Armed Forces executions of service men who had been convicted of committing capital offenses), while 81 colored prisoners were hanged, electrocuted or gassed to death. Two Indians round out the figure to the total of 118.

Georgia Most Vicious State

Some satisfaction may be gleaned from the statement of the Department of Justice that "except for the year 1945, when 117 prisoners were executed, the 118 in 1948 represents the smallest number executed by civil authorities in any year since the present series of statistics on executions was inaugurated by the Census Bureau in 1930."

While the report notes a general downward trend in the use of the death penalty, it notes an upward trend in its use for rape, which is one of the three crimes for which persons during that year were executed. The others are murder and armed robbery.

In 1948, some 94 prisoners were executed for murder; 22 met their deaths for rape; and 2 marched the "last mile" for armed robbery. In 1930, some 147 died for murder; only 6 for rape; and two for other offenses.

Governor Talmadge's Georgia continues to be the biggest killer of colored prisoners, with 11 persons out of the 13 executed being non-white.

The next highest is the "enlightened" State of North Carolina which killed 8 persons—all colored. Mississippi deviated from the pattern. Killing 8 persons, it took the life of one white man while taking the lives of 7 colored ones.

DAUGHTER OF STRANGERS, by Elizabeth Boatwright Coker (Dutton, $3). A novel set in the ante-bellum South.

LET'S SEE NOW

Best Seller---Plea For Tolerance

By DORIS LOCKERMAN

The name Coker has long been noteworthy in the prosperous section of South Carolina, in the "horsey" region of Hartsville, for philanthropy, progress, responsibility and achievement. Coker College, named for the successful industrialist family, is living evidence of the purposeful use to which the Cokers have put their money in the past and present.

But it may be possible that the Hartsville Cokers may soon be even more widely known for the writings of Elizabeth Boatwright Coker, the glamorous wife of James Coker, whose first novel "Daughter of Strangers" is marching toward the top of the best-seller lists all over the nation.

"Daughter of Strangers" is a first-rate story dealing with that most sensitive subject, the emotional conflicts between the races, but it is no "Strange Fruit." It is a novel set in the 1830s, in New Orleans and in the area of South Carolina around Charleston, in the gay, relaxed society of the plantation owners.

Principal character of the book is a beautiful, burnished-haired girl who had been reared elegantly as a white child and did not know that a small part of her blood was Negro until she had been sold to Nicholas Gaillard as a slave.

Slavery is shown in all its aspects, from that of the ivory-skinned octaroon favorites, maintained in luxury in New Orleans, to the staunchly respectable group of free Negroes in Charleston and the simple-hearted field hands, house servants, trainers and boatmen.

When Mrs. Coker visited Atlanta last week with her friend, Mrs. Lucille Kerfoots of Hartsfield, she flashed a melting, grateful smile and drawled: "You've read my book? Well, thank you very much. You know, then, what I was trying to say. I was trying to make my own plea for tolerance."

Elizabeth Coker is no "typical author," nor is she easy to envision tied to a typewriter for three years, researching the past, while her pleasant easy life went on around her, and without her.

As the sheltered wife of a distinguished manufacturer, it is even more amazing to see how she has delved into underlying social mores and political issues of the ante-bellum days, revealing them with a scalpel of honesty and compassion. Delicate, blue-eyed, tremendously chic and and poised, it is almost paradoxical that she should be interested enough in the lowly past to report it so vividly.

One who had read the novel summed up the knowledge that obviously lies behind the work: "She knows a lot about almost everything, and she has the right attitude toward what she knows."

There is another Coker book on the way. It is a modern novel, set again in South Carolina, "which will always be the setting for my writing. It is a rich, unexploited region for writers. You know Virginia and Florida, Georgia and New Orleans have been used again and again."

This is another one we may see in the movies, and if it is filmed it will not reflect too unkindly upon the days of slave-owners. "Daughter of Strangers" is no apology for the days that were and it has a happy ending.

Gertrude Martin

Biographies Of Famous Americans Make Good Fare For Young Readers

THREE fictional stories of famous Americans which were published several months ago have been brought to my attention recently. Two, "The 'Deep River' Girl," the Life Story of Marian Anderson, and "The Peanut Man," Story of George Washington Carver, both by Harry Albus, are designed for very young readers. The third, "Abe Lincoln of Pigeon Creek," a novel by William E. Wilson, is a biography which adults as well as older boys and girls will enjoy. Defender

The author of "Abe Lincoln of Pigeon Creek" himself grew up in Southern Indiana a few miles from Lincoln's early home in Spencer County. He explains his interest in Lincoln in the Foreword: "Like most Southern Hoosiers, I have the heritage of both the North and the South in my blood and the traditions of pioneering and politics in my upbringing. Consequently, I have found the early struggles and the inner turmoil of Abraham Lincoln peculiarly understandable and attractive to my imagination . . . Dat. 5-21-50

This understanding and sympathy is admirably translated to his book and the reader sees young Lincoln as a complex and very real person. Mr. Wilson states that all the major episodes of the story are based on fact: "conversations, motives, and most of the minor transitional happenings have been invented." Chicago

This is a book which, apart from its historical significance, is a warm and appealing character study of a young man in a pioneer society growing into manhood at an early age. The book opens with the coming of Sarah Bush Lincoln as the second wife of Tom Lincoln, Abe's father. His sorrow over his mother's early death and his determination to keep his stepmother at a distance brought him many unhappy hours.

"Abe Lincoln of Pigeon Creek" held my interest from start to finish. It brings to life this period in the early part of the 19th Century in customs, manners, and speech.

Of the two fictional biographies by Mr. Albus for juvenile readers, "The Peanut Man" presents a more complete picture. It is easy to understand why this is so, since far more has been written about Dr. Carver. The first pages of the "The 'Deep River' Girl" seem over-sentimental and the dialogue is not as natural as in the other book.

"Abe Lincoln of Pigeon Creek" by William E. Wilson; Whittlesley House; New York City; $3.00

"The 'Deep River' Girl" by Harry Albus; Wm. B. Ferdman's Publishing Company; 255 Jefferson ave., S. E.; Grand Rapids 3, Michigan; $1.00.

"The Peanut Man" by Harry Albus; Wm. B. Ferdman's Publishing Company; $1.00

THE EAGLE ON THE COIN, by R. V. Cassill (Random House, $3). A novel about racial equality.

A Party For "The Runaway Elephant

Staffoto by Nichols

"PLEASE AUTOGRAPH MY BOOK" . . . Children gather around Ellen Tarry, author of "The Runaway Elephant," for autographs of her new book. The autographing party was given Friday by the James Weldon Johnson Literary Guild and was held at Esther's Toyland, 50 West 125th St. Miss Tarry presented her manuscript to the James Weldon Johnson collection.

Children's Book Features Negro Boy As Hero

NEW YORK — (Special) — In "Runaway Elephant," a Negro boy is the hero, according to the semi-annual survey of books for youngsters printed in "America: National Catholic Weekly Review."

Written by a New York Negro, Ellen Tarry, who wrote "My Dog Rinty," and "Hezekiah Horton," the story was illustrated by Oliver Harrington and published by Viking Press for children six to nine.

Episode in Palmetto

"EPISODE IN PALMETTO"

Erskine Caldwell is back at the same stand with "Episode In Palmetto"—ridiculing the pretentious, and sympathizing with the oppressed. In this case he writes of a lovely and impressionable young teacher who finds her first position a trial in several ways. Her chief problem is a physically precocious student, Floyd Neighbors, whose attentions both embarrass and excite her.

Although "Episode In Palmetto" is a short book, the author introduces an interesting gallery of characters, each of whom, though briefly glimpsed, has an individuality of his own. Mr. Caldwell is an able satirist who restricts himself to a limited field of Southern life. His sympathies are with the underdog and the weak, in this case Vernona, whose full-blown charms surround her with a motley ring of admirers.

"Episode In Palmetto" is further evidence of Erskine Caldwell's knowledge of human nature and of his wry humor. It is probably presumptuous to quibble with "America's best-selling novelist," as Mr. Caldwell is called on the jacket of his book, but by broadening the scope of his writing he might easily add even more to his stature as a writer.

"Episode In Palmetto" by Erskine Caldwell; Duell, Sloan and Pearce; New York City; $2.75.

Rural Crime On Upgrade, FBI Reports

First Half Of 1950 Shows 7.4 Increase Over 1949 Period

WASHINGTON, Oct. 8 —(AP)— The country cross roads continued to hold the crime spotlight during the first half of 1950 an FBI report showed Sunday.

The Bureau's semi-annual report listed an increase of 7.4 per cent in rural crime compared with the same period in 1949. In the first half of last year, rural crime jumped 7.6 per cent.

The 1950 upswing for rural areas was registered in every category except negligent manslaughter and automobile theft, which were down 3.7 per cent and 3.9 per cent respectively.

Rural murders were up 1.6 per cent; rape 4.8; robbery 3.4; aggravated assault 4.7; burglary 14.9 and larceny 5.6.

In contrast, the Bureau's report showed that city crime increased only 1.9 per cent.

Biggest jump for the cities was in negligent manslaughter, which went up 19.8 per cent.

Other categories:

Murder down 1.1 per cent; rape down 4.6; robbery down 3.8; aggravated assault up .4; burglary up 1.9; larceny up 2.2 and auto theft up 3.2

Reports to the FBI from 1,652 cities representing a population of 48,613,022 showed that during all of 1949 an average of one out of every four urban persons was charged with some traffic violation.

One Of Every 20 Charged

Furthermore, the report showed one out of every 20 city dwellers was charged during the year with some other violation such as drunkenness, disorderly conduct assault, larceny and the like.

Other highlights of the report.

About two-thirds of the persons charged by police during 1949 were found guilty, according to statistics from 205 cities with a population of 22,750,544.

Fifty-five city policemen were killed in line of duty during 1949, the fewest in five years.

Based on FBI fingerprint records, the arrests of males increased one per cent and arrests of females declined 3.3 per cent in the first six months of 1950 compared with the first half of 1949.

About one-half of all crimes involving property during the first half of 1950 were committed by persons under 25 years of age.

A total of 63,615 persons under 21 years of age were arrested and fingerprinted, representing 15.8 per cent of total arrests.

The predominating age of persons arrested was 21, followed by 22, 23, 19 and 20.

More than 60 per cent of those arrested in the first half of 1950 were repeaters.

A Notable Pamphlet On Race Relations

IN A pamphlet issued recently as an educational guide by the American Missionary Associaton's Department of Race Relations at Fisk University, it is set forth that racial segregation can be done away with in this country without violence, trickery, or the breaking of laws. It warns further that the technique of "boring from within and all other crooked ways must be set aside or we shall undermine the very human brotherhood we intend to create."

Furthermore, the primary appeal, the pamphlet declares, must be to man's reverence for God, to his good will towards his fellow man, and to his respect for the integrity of his own soul.

Because the findings in the booklet, written by MARGARET C. MCCULLOCH, are based upon a broad survey of racial segregation practices conducted under the supervision of the race relations staff at Fisk University, they can be said to carry the weight of responsibile authority and should, therefore, command the most serious consideration.

The observation is particularly appropriate in the light of the author's findings that segregation is a network of rules and customs designed to mantain white supremacy, and that basically, its obect is to make of the Negro a second-class citizen.

All of this of course, has been voiced time and time again in one form or another. But what makes the Fisk pamphlet unique is the fact that while pointing out the structural defects and other evil concomitants of racial segregation, it also submits an action program for individuals, families, churches, schools, employers and trade unions, designed to remedy some of these defects.

To this end it calls for group action at the political and legal levels, urges employers and unions to see that Negro Americans are hired and upgraded purely on the basis of merit: recommends appropriate race relations courses in schools, colleges and workers' clinics, and asks for a broad frontal attack by organized religion.

This is a really worthwhile and realistic approach to a seroius problem which has grown to huge proportions as a result of America's bi-racial pattern of living. Persons of good will can not possibly find anv fault with it.

Preventive Action Urged

Segregation is Seen Great Peril to U. S.

NASHVILLE—A new pamphlet issued by the American Missionary Association's Department of Race Relations at Fisk University, last week pointed out race segregations as being a great peril too the United States.

The pamphlet, the result of a survey conducted by the race relations staff, was written by Margaret C. McCulloch. It additionally points out that segregation can be done away with in this country without violence, trickery or breaking the laws.

Primary appeal of the booklet, which is basically an analysis of a condition, and not a diatribe, is to man's reverence for God, to his good-will towards his fellowman, and to his respect for the integrity of his own soul.

It also submits an action program for individuals, families, schools, churches, employers and trade unions. Segregation, it stresses, is the "Achilles Heel of America in world affairs."

It finally calls for group action on the political and legal levels and recommends appropriate relations courses for schools, colleges and workers clinics, and asks for a broad frontal attack by organized religion.

Folksongs of Alabama

Book Preserves Alabama's Folksongs

FOLKSONGS OF ALABAMA, collected by Byron Arnold, University of Alabama Press, University, Ala., 193 pages including indices—$4.50.

From one corner of the state to the other, listening and taking notes or listening and using a recording machine, Mr. Arnold has traveled, assembling the material that has resulted in this book. And the richest finds were through the Black Belt, from Montgomery to Demopolis.

More than 150 songs, from a variety of sources, most of them handed down from generation to generation, Negro songs and English ballads and play party songs, are included in this memorable volume.

Callie Craven of Gadsden, Janie Barnard Couch of Guntersville, L. L. Sutherlin of Gadsden, Jennie Chandler of Guntersville, Mary Holly of Parch's Cove, Lena Hill of Lexington, Nell Young of Huntsville, Myrtle Love Hester of Florence, Mary Kirk of Tuscumbia, Mae Erskine Irvine of Florence, Corie Lambert of Mobile, Laurie Ernst of Mobile, Elizabeth Henshaw Pillans of Mobile, Delaney of Mobile, Montgomery's own Grace Scott, now of Mobile; Pansy Richardson of Mobile, George Bryant of Balou La Batre, Houston L. Lucia of Tuscaloosa, Alton O'Steen of Tuscaloosa, Adele Harrison Montgomery of Tuscaloosa, Jack Montgomery of Tuscaloosa, Louise Duggar Harris of Tuscaloosa, and Ruby Pickens Tartt of Livingston, are among the contributors.

Praise already has been showered on FOLKSONGS OF ALABAMA by such authorities as Dr. Alton C. Morris, University of Florida, editor of "Southern Folk - Lore Quarterly;" Louise Pound, University of Nebraska, past president of the American Folklore Society; Prof. Arthur Hudson, University of North Carolina, author of such books as SINGING SOUTH and FOLKSONGS OF MISSISSIPPI; and Dean Stith Thompson, University of Indiana, past president of the American Folklore Society.

The book includes terse biographies of singers and contributors, some with pictures. The music was drawn by Dan Rice, the lettering by Wilmer C. Garrett, and the jacket by Charles S. Warren.

The author, a native or Oregon, came to the University of Alabama in 1938 as a member of the music faculty, becoming interested almost immediately in this state's folksongs. He began his research, traveling to remote corners of the state, in the summer of 1945, while the war was still in progress.

The results of his research are his book—a notable publishing event in that it preserves not only the words of these Alabama folksongs, but the music as well.

—E. R. M.

Anti-Defamation League Spotlights Hate Racketeers

Constitution Journ. 4-16-50
Atlanta Ga.

A MEASURE OF FREEDOM, by Arnold Forster; Doubleday; 256 pages, indexed; $2.50.

Hate mongering is still big business in the United States. Bigots such as Gerald L. K. Smith, Upton Close, Merwin K. Hart, A. Alderson Zoll, and many others, yearly collect thousands of dollars to carry on their activities that foment prejudice and keep alive intolerance in the nation today. And you will be surprised to learn the names of some of their financial backers. Their political support is an equal source of wonder.

The publication of this book was undertaken at the direction of the Civil Rights Committee of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. Author of the volume is the director of ADL's Civil Rights Division. He is head of a large staff, stationed in various sections of the country, who helped gather the facts for the book. Arthur J. Levin is in charge of the Atlanta Regional Office.

Discrimination against minorities is the target of this expose. The Ku Klux Klan, of course, looms large in the picture. That means Georgia and the South are prominently mentioned.

Anti-Semitism is stressed and there is an appendix that lists all the anti-Semitic organizations and publications in the United States. Hardly any field touched by discrimination is overlooked, including sports.

It is an unlovely picture, factually presented, completely annotated and documented.

This book brings the South square up against the race question, or rather the Negro question. The ADL, of course, favors anti-segregation legislation. That, like the proposed FEPC, is a hot potato below the Mason and Dixon Line. There is a definite pattern that governs relations between whites and Negroes in the South. The arbitrary changing of this modus vivendi will lead only to strife and bitterness. The enlightened people of the South are seeking a solution to this "problem." Progress is being made. Time alone will bring the complete answer.

We realize that the racists make capital of the Negro question. That is to be deplored, since it hinders an orderly solution. ADL recommends "law, education and community action" as the three fundamental forces which can be called into effective counterplay against prejudice. That's fair enough.

This is the fourth such report by the ADL. It is to be hoped that they continue to throw the spotlight on the racketeers who deal in hate.

—SAM F. LUCCHESE.

A Book On The 'What,' Not The 'Why,' Of Discrimination

Chapel Hill Weekly 4-16-50

A MEASURE OF FREEDOM, by Arnold Forster. Doubleday & Co., 256 pages, $2.50.

Under the banner of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Arnold Forster, who is the league's civil rights division director, offers concise documentation of the degree of discrimination in the U. S. A., 1949. This is an updating on anti-Semitism, prejudice and discrimination against Negroes and other minorities.

The book is not a penetrating effort to discover why some Americans believe as they do. Generally, Mr. Forster's book involves data not analysis. It is good to have statistics on how widespread is prejudice today, but reasons for it must be found elsewhere.

THE BOOK IS a mine of ready information. Perhaps outstanding is a harsh documentation of racial and religious prejudice among American colleges and universities in accepting applications. The section on the Klans as of 1949 is a sound job; for instance: Lycurgus Spinks is properly placed in the cellar position of the Sheet League. One may argue with Mrs. Forster over his rather gently implied thesis that the hood was overpublicized last year. It seems, on the scene, that exactly that had much to do with awakening citizens.

He finds little to indicate religious discrimination in organized baseball or football and commends the trend away from racial prejudice. Absurd prejudices such as those affecting private golf clubs are sharply outlined. When there is a profit factor, he notes, discrimination declines. Mr. Forester says there were, last year, only three Americans in pro hockey leagues, the rest being Canadians. He is just a little nice as he explains that this is not because of a prejudice against U. S. puck-pokers, but because usually they are poorer players.

IT IS ENCOURAGING to see that the pattern of Klan activity has been properly documented. The fact that attacks largely were against whites is recorded.

There is an appendix with several usueful compilations, including recent Supreme Court cases affecting discrimination.—E. L. HOLLAND, JR.

Book Review

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

Journeyman, by Erskine Caldwell. Penguin Books, 245 Fifth Avenue, New York. 137 pp. $.25.

Tragic Ground, by Erskine Caldwell. Penguin Books. 263 pp. $.25.

A Place Called Estherville, by Erskine Caldwell. Avon Books, 119 W. 57th St., New York. 151 pp. $.35.

It is hard to write about Erskine Caldwell's work now. One remembers with what excitement of discovery one read **God's Little Acre** some years ago. One remembers, too, that the excitement was just as fresh for **Tobacco Road** and **Trouble In July.**

In 1938, just twelve years ago, one went to hear him lecture on "Southern Tenant Farmers" at the New School for Social Research, and was impressed by his honesty and his obvious gift for exact observation.

Caldwell then had already made more money than any man has any business needing, and his reputation was second in magnitude only to Hemingway's, Faulkner's and Steinbeck's. And there were some things he was better at than they. In general, he had a more direct narrative skill than Steinbeck's.

Profound Humor

In general, he was warmer than Hemingway. His humor, in general, was more profound as social comment than Faulkner's. In 1938 it seemed impossible that Caldwell should leave the solid highway of truth for the shabby allurements of darksome alleys. But he did.

From the high, serious humor of **Tobacco Road** and **Trouble In July** and from the purging anger of short stories like **The People vs. Abe Lathan, Colored,"** he has descended to the stews of **Journeyman, Tragic Ground** and **A Place Called Estherville.**

He has turned from the delineation of people to the drawing of monsters. From truth he has fallen to untruth and the untruth itself extends even to the physiology of mankind, which anyone with a high school learning can refute.

It is not just caricature, which can teach and which Caldwell used effectively in earlier works; it is not burlesque which, at its best, lights up life in a hundred ways.

It is pure, unadulterated filth, with all the insight gone, with all the meaning sucked out, and with all the fine talent for seeing a significant symbol in a casual act depleted. All that remains of symbolism is in the obvious names of people like Semon Dve (the lecherous preacher) is **Journeyman** and places like Poor Boy (the name of the Georgia community) in **Tragic Ground.**

Lost Respect for Audience

No one knows what happens in a case like Caldwell's. It is too easy to say that he wanted money. His need of money is long past. And anyway, isn't it true that the urge for money comes early rather than late in a writer's career?

Certainly it was true of Caldwell's contemporaries. Hemingway admitted that he wrote **To Have and Have Not** and **The Green Hills of Africa** with one eye on the quarterly royalty statement.

Faulkner wrote his "guts out" (he himself says it) for six weeks on **Sanctuary** because he wanted money. But these were relatively early books, written to bar the door against the wolf and the world so that better books could be written.

No. There is something else in Caldwell's case, and it occurs to me that it is that Caldwell has lost respect for his audience. It may be that he has come to scorn the readers who read all his best books for the wrong reasons.

It may be that he has contempt for those readers—and they are the majority—who failed to see that in his earlier, good books he was a humorist who used humor to purge life of its crassness, its ugliness and its inhumanity. And, finally, it may be that his recent works are less about the monstrous characters in them than scathing comments on the people who read them.

Looks at Books

New Anthology Hardly Does Credit to Author Or Colored Writers

Anthologies, like ladies' hats, now come in every style and vagary of taste. The anthologist's excuse or defense for his compilation is usually set forth neatly in preface or introduction.

This collection of writings by Negro Americans (American Literature by Negro Authors—by Herman Dreer, New York: The MacMillan Company, 1950.) has the usual justification in the usual place.

Describing his work as a "volume . . . primarily for use as a textbook," anthologist Dreer states that his "aim has not been to cover the entire field, but to present representative authors and some of their works, in order to show how Negro writers have treated each type of American literature."

THEN FOLLOW the nine sections of the book, each section preceded by an introduction. These introductions, as well as the biographical sketches of individual authors, will scarcely establish the compiler's reputation as a careful and discriminating student of American literature in general or Negro literature in particular.

The gratuitous pedogogical suggestions are of questionable value because nowhere does the compiler say for what age or grade or educational level the compilation is intended.

If this book is for high school youngsters, then far more up-to-date explanatory material and skilled teaching techniques are needed to bring the teaching aids up to modern educational standards.

* * *

IF COLEGE STUDENTS are to use the book. the "realistic materials" by Negro authors that Professor Dreer eschews "as unsuitable for classroom use" literally cry out for inclusion. Otherwise the work can hardly be representative of the work done by the greatest Negro writers.

Perhaps the weakest point of the book is the presentation of "many rising authors who are talented but who at present may not be nationally known" side by side with authors nationally and internationally known.

The result is fair neither to the "rising authors" nor to those of established reputation. If a compiler wishes to offer pupils a collection of regional or local writings, well and good.

* * *

IF THE PURPOSE is to give readers the best that has been written by writers of whatever group, nationality, or ethnic classification, so much the better.

The mixing of purpose, as is done in "American Literature by Negro Authors," gives a distorted picture of the work done by Negro writers that does justice neither to the writers themselves nor to their readers.

The present work will scarcely supercede, either as a textbook or as a representative anthology or writings by Negro Americans, such standard collections as "Readings From Negro Authors," "Early Negro-American Writers" and "The Negro Caravan."

J. WELFORD HOLMES
Morgan State College.

GENETICS AND THE RACES OF MAN. by William C. Boyd (Little, Brown, $6). A study of anthropology.

26b 1950

God! Make Me a Man.

Book Review

God! Make Me a Man, by Charles H. Wilson, Sr. Meador Publishers, Boston 15, Mass. 61 pp. $1.00
Faith Moves Mountains, An Auto—biography, by Rev. Amos H. Carnegie. Published by the Author. Carver Hall, 211 Elm St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 114 pp. $1.00

By J. Saunders Redding

There is but slight excuse for reviewing **God! Make Me a Man** and **Faith Moves Mountains** in the same column: they are both "true-life" stories of men of whom it is thought by some that they have a claim on the world's attention.

God! Make Me a Man is the poorly, even ignorantly written account of the life of Dr. Sidney Dillon Redmond. One gets no idea from this account of what sort of man Doctor— Lawyer— Politician —Merchant Redmond was, really.

We learn that he was born dirt-poor, the son of sharecroppers in Mississippi; that he put himself through college and medical school; that he had a hard time getting settled in medicine, but finally did get settled; that after some years of practice, he decided to study law; that he raised a family and eventually died secure in a wealth of a quarter of a million dollars.

Tells Nothing of Him

But all this tells us nothing about him; these things did not make him important to know. Indeed, the bare recital of facts, uninterpreted in terms of Redmond's personality (and he must have had one), make him seem a monster with a gargantuan acquisitive instinct and not very nice ways of satisfying it. And in making him seem this, Charles H. Wilson, Sr., has done an injustice to Redmond's memory.

One supposes that the story of the man's life was intended to illustrate something. Indeed, the author tells us that "tolerance, understanding and patriotism" marked that life, but nowhere does the author make us see these fine attributes at work.

God may have made a man, but in this book about him, Redmond is dead from first page to last, laid out and embalmed in the most wretched grammar this reviewer has ever seen in print.

Different Autobiography

Quite different is the Rev. Carnegie's autobiography. It frequently happens that the naively told stories of lives yield matter rich in experiences which document racial life in America. Carnegie's book does this.

Born at a time when Booker Washington's name and philosophy were a by-word, the Rev. Mr. Carnegie is a perfect illustration of what could still be done in the 20's and 30's on the Washington formula of bend and beg.

The bending and begging started when he was a boy in B.W.I., when His Excellency Sir Sidney Olivier and the United Fruit Company and various potent individuals gave him money and men and materials to build a bicycle racing track.

It went on from there to include gifts of his education (at Lincoln University), gifts of jobs, gifts of money for living expenses, and gifts of funds with which to build schoolhouses in South Carolina.

Getting people to give is hard work, as any beggar can testify, but the Rev. Mr. Carnegie's recital of his prodigious labors makes easy and entertaining reading. **Faith Moves Mountains** is full of incidents, some amusing, some close to tragic, but all revealing some aspect of the subject's character.

An extremely religious man, the Rev. Mr. Carnegie makes his dedication to God at once the motive and the excuse for a superior kind of alms-asking. And with what he receives in this way, he seeks to build a better world for men on earth.

BEACHHEAD

Jeannie had spent part of the afternoon watching her mother fix her hair. That evening, while her father read her a story, she reached up and, patting his bald head, remarked "Daddy, you don't have nice waves like Mother— you're just all beach."

'GOD'S REVENGE' ON PRESSES:

Housewife Unaffected by Success as Author

By DOROTHY GIBSON

BALTIMORE

"God's Revenge," a 275-page book soon to be released by Meador, a Boston Publishing Company, was written by a Baltimore housewife, Mrs. Amanda Finch.

The fact that her first book had been accepted, was enough to send the AFRO scurrying for an interview; but this reporter found the author-housewife not disturbed one jota and her daily routine unchanged.

Arriving at her neat Washington St. home, I was given the choice of waiting in the living room or having her stop her lunch, which she was having in the kitchen, for the interview.

Her gracious manner resulted in an interview across the kitchen table, in the smart red and white unit kitchen.

Personal Interest Not Expected

Mrs. Finch remarked, "I didn't know the AFRO could be so informal and I never dreamed they would be interested in me. I had hoped they would be in the book, however."

A slight matron, under five feet, with a ready smile, Mrs. Finch, after much coaxing, began, to loosen up and talk.

"The inspiration to write," she said, began when I was 7 years old, in the grade schools. I was always a good reader and could use words well. It was at this time I composed verses for class recitations for myself and classmates.

Book Based on Experiences

"The only reason can give for writing "God's Revenge," which I started to call from "Ground To Stars," or "Intolerance," is from my experiences in life," she pointed, out, adding:

The book tells of life as I've seen it. I am very religious. I'm not patting myself on the back," she apologized, "I just am."

Mrs. Finch was very reluctant to tell the contents of the story. In fact she said it wouldn't be fair to her or the public; but she promised the AFRO one of the first copies.

"Oh," she said, as I got ready to leave, "I forgot to tell you that I wrote a story about a family I knew very well and it was published in True Story Magazine in 1925.

"I felt sorry for the woman, and when I received the check for the story, I gave it to her," she revealed.

Eloped From Tuskegee

Mrs. Finch was born in the suburbs of Raleigh, N.C. attended school in Wake County. Later, she went to Tuskegee Institute, from where she eloped and married Needham Finch, 33 years ago. The one son born to them is now deceased.

They moved to Baltimore 15 years ago. Mr. Finch became a steel worker and she was agent for the Continental Accident Insurance Company.

Tiring of this, she took a course in Millinery Art from the Louie Miller Institute in Chicago. She displayed some of her latest creations, which give assurance that whenever she tires of writing, she may easily earn her livlihood in that field.

Member of First Baptist

"Immediately after I came to Baltimore," "she continued, "I joined First Baptist Church, where I still have my membership, and I tried to be a good citizen by becoming affiliated with some of the groups that were working for better things for our people."

She is associated with the East side Community Committee, East Baltimore Democratic Women and is a former board member of the NAACP, having represented that group in Los Angeles, last year after winning the trip through membership contributions She is also a Red Cross worker and a member of the National Council of Negro Women, Metropolitan Area.

Mrs. Finch is a teacher of the Young Peoples' Bible Class and a member of her church's Foral Circle, Missionery Society, Ladies Aid Group and Saturday Night Bible Class.

"I helps out in other things around the church when I can," she added, "also I have another book partly done in the rough."

Keeps Busy in "Spare Time"

Facetiously I asked, " what do you do in your spare time and have you any hobbies?"

The unexpected reply was: "I do one or two other things I won't mention: As for hobbies, those are reading and sewing. Recently I learned to crochet and I am really enjoying it."

Needless to say the author of "God's Revenge,, has a wealth of experience with people and should be in a position to know some of the things for who God would be revenged.

Willard Townsend

'Industry's Unfinished Business,' Sara Southall's Great Contribution

DURING my enforced absence from my regular work, I had ample opportunity to catch up on much of my reading. Among the very interesting books that I received and read was an autographed copy of Sara Southall's new book, "Industry's Unfinished Business."

Having spent many years in the field of industrial relations, I know of no other book that I have read that does such a swell job of focusing the attention of the American employers to their shortcomings in the field of industrial and social engineering. Miss Southall makes a public confession for American management:

"With a kind of strange perversity we have consistently refused to recognize the need for reforms within our own domain, and have failed conspicuously to initiate them until forced to do so by state or federal action.

"It is a sorry fact that organized business actively opposed almost every piece of social and labor legislation from Workmen's Compensation through Social Security and the labor laws of the 1930's . . .

"We of management are now failing in the field of minority employment. We should be taking the lead in hiring and promoting employees without regard to race, creed, color, or national origin.

"Instead, we are lagging behind public opinion. There are, of course, instances of intelligent and successful policies, but for the most part, our attitude and policies are ostrich-like."

As an example of "ostrich-like" behavior, Miss Southall cited a "Chicago business association," which has always ignored the problem of racial discrimination by business.

Miss Southall, a member of President Roosevelt's wartime Fair Employment Practices Committee (FEPC), calls for more "voluntary action" by employers and unions in fighting discrimination.

She says that the non-governmental approach has much educational value, and can help convince employers that government action is necessary. She points to the experience of the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, which first opposed a local FEPC ordinance and then, after a year of voluntary effort, came out in favor of the law.

Sara Southall represents, in my estimation, one of America's most enlightened members of American industry. Having known and worked with her over the years, my respect for her and my high regard for her sincerity has increased each year during this period. We have worked together on many committees and boards and I have watched her fine mind at work, usually in behalf of the underdog, not too much in an altruistic vein, but with a clear knowledge of the tremendous waste that follows in the wake of industry's failure to use all of its employees at their highest skill.

The impact of Miss Southall's philosophy was well recognized in the recent incident that happened a few months ago in Memphis when white employees of the International Harvester Company threatened to strike because a Negro had been upgraded in that plant. Jimmy Moore, Negro employee in Memphis, was upgraded and mobs gathered around the gates of the International Harvester Company plant threatening strikes. How was this handled? It was then that Sarah Southall's philosophy was brought into action. Moore retained his rightfully earned promotion and the workers all returned to their jobs. So, to Sara Southall and her book, I offer my salute and say, "well done."

I would suggest that we all read her book, "Industry's Unfinished Business," (Harper's, $2.50).

Lena Horne's Book is Hailed

HOLLYWOOD, Calif.—A week before Lena Horne's story of her life, "In Person: Lena Horne," Greenberg Publishers, is to hit the bookstores, University of California's Dr. Marjory B. Drury says, to read this book is to achieve a sense of identity with a sensitive human being."

Says Dr. Drury, associate professor at UCLA School of Social Welfare, "It is a dynamic portrayal of a woman who is attempting to resolve and understands the conflicts of her status within the American scene."

"I sincerely recommend," continues Dr. Drury, who is president of the Los Angeles chapter, American Association of Social Workers, "this book which will contribute much to the understanding of all students of human relations and cultural patterns."

IN PERSON

LENA HORNE

is a life story as entertaining as one of Miss Horne's stellar performances at the Copa. As told to Helen Arstein and Carlton Moss, it is now on sale at all bookstores for $3.00 (in paper-bound edition $1.50). Greenberg: Publisher, 201 East 57th St., N.Y. 22

Current reading

By Minnie Lomax

ALL WAS NOT GLAMOUR FOR GLAMOROUS LENA

In Person—Lena Horne. As told to Helen Arstein and Carlton Moss. New York: Greenberg, publisher. 249 pp. $3.00.

The story of Lena Horne is one of the sort of which the world never tires—Cinderella; and oddly enough, impersonating the young girl who rose from rags to riches was the first role she was to play as an elementary school pupil in the South. In Lena's case, the fairy godmother with the magic wand was to be the stage, which her mother before her had chosen as a career.

Descended from grandparents on both sides who were teachers, Lena deviated from the family's chosen profession through several quirks of circumstance. Her parents separated when she was three, an incident which sent her mother, Edna, back to the theatre for a livelihood and a four-year tour with the Lafayette Players. Lena went along with her mother and was exposed to the theatre "practically all of her waking moments." At an early age she demonstrated skill in mimicking the actors and developed her talents by rehearsing parts with her mother even after ill health forced the mother to retire.

The child from a broken home, Lena suffered all the consequences that flow from that tragic situation, the most dire of which being the lack of a permanent home and a normal home life. Her story reveals the well-known pattern: at one time her mother and stepfather, at another with paternal grandparents in Brooklyn, then with a friend of her mother who was director of the Lincoln Settlement House in New York, and again with an uncle who taught at Ft. Valley Normal and Industrial School in Georgia. It was the loss of his job by stepfather Mike Rodriguez, a Cuban, that forced Lena to give up her studies when in the second year of high school and accept a place in the chorus of the famous Cotton Club at the age of 16.

From the moment Lena danced her first step at the Cotton Club, the course was set that would lead her to fame and fortune, aided and abetted by an ambitious mother who compensated for her own frustrations by promoting her daughter's career and catapulting her to the place she would have liked to have had herself. "Mama," says Lena, "was maid, manager, agent, and public relations woman," a factotum which she remained until Lena's marriage to Louis Jones in Pittsburgh during her engagement with Noble Sissle's band.

In addition to mother's helping hands, there were those of the famous in the theatrical world who happened to be at the Cotton Club when Lena was employed there; Cab Calloway, Lena's hero since the time she saw him at the Brooklyn Paramount, who induced the management to give her a singing part; Flournoy Miller who was responsible for her being taken on by Noble Sissle. Before reaching Hollywood, Lena was to go on tour as the only Negro with Charley Barnet's orchestra, sing at Cafe Society Downtown, and star in Lew Leslie's "Blackbirds of 1939."

A preface by the authors, Helen Arstein and Carlton Moss, states that this book was written in answer to the plea for advice coming from so many aspiring Negro youngsters. Certainly it will reveal that more than glamour is needed. From dancing lessons at the Settlement House, voice lessons from teachers and experienced men in the theatre like Lew Leslie, dramatic instruction from the best coach in Hollywood, and encounters with booking agents, it all adds up to a lot of hard work. It may seem a paradox that the first Negro woman ever to be signed to a term contract by the motion picture industry, the only Negro woman ever to be presented to the public as a glamour girl, the woman who at the age of 32 has acquired fame and fortune should feel frustrated. This, however, is the case with Lena who as the story closes is disillusioned about the movie industry to the point of asking to be released from her contract, a request which has been granted. Having prepared for starring roles and believing that her public has grown tired of viewing her as just a singer in a nightclub who comes on for a few minutes, she proposes to make pictures independently.

Lena's story, which is written in the first person, discusses only two loves in her life, the two men she married, Louis Jones, a government employee in Pittsburgh, father of her two children, Teddy and Gail, and her present husband, Lennie Hayton, the MGM composer and arranger whom she married secretly in Paris in December 1947. Certainly, one of the fine things that will always be rememebered about the glamorous star is her devotion to her children and her anxiety about their future, many touching things about which appear in the story.

Lena's interest in the fight of her people for their rights and her cooperation in their behalf are well known, but what is not so well terested when, apparently, things were going fairly well for her. It is one of the best features of the book, as it recounts Lena's various experiences with prejudice, how bitterness toward whites was engendered early in her, dating from a sojourn in Miami, where Mama had gone for her health and taken her when she was a youngster, how she reacted to invitations from whites in the theatrical world and in the movie colony, and how she finally worked it out. It happened at Cafe Society Downtown, and she says, "Little by little, as my confused and twisted values unwound and readjusted themselves, my work began to benefit. Once I learned to stop lumping everybody into a group and to recognize that people were individuals, irrespective of color, I loosened up when I sang. I was no longer singing to a roomful of enemies because I had to entrtain them in order to earn a living. I was beginning to sing to them as much because I was learning to like them and wanted them to enjoy my performance as because I had to eat."

About her success, Lena says, "I am sure that the times we were living in had a profound effect on my career for I was being presented to the motion picture industry when the agitation for equal rights for my people had reached a new peak." However that may be, Lena has indeed done what her mother thought she ought to do, "make good to justify the tremendous sacrifice of my education," and certainly, as Mrs. Bethune says, Grandmother Horne would be proud of her little Lena if she were alive, instead of turning over in her grave as others would have it.

The two writers who have set down Lena's story in book form have succeeded in making it as interesting as its glamorous subject, and we shall await eagerly that next one promised by Lena on the worthwhile people she has met, whether it is written by herself or others.

TED WILLIAMS, by Arthur Sampson; Barnes; 180 pages, indexed; $2.50.

JACKIE ROBINSON, by Bill Roeder; Barnes; 183 pages, indexed; $2.50.

The publication of these two volumes inaugurates this publisher's Most Valuable Player Series, biographies of the baseball players winning the Most Valuable Player Awards in the American and National Leagues. These awards are made annually, the winners being selected by the members of the Baseball Writers' Association.

The Ted Williams story is told by Arthur Sampson, Boston sports writer and close friend of the Splendid Splinter or Thumping Theodore as he is often called.

The saga of Jackie Robinson, first Negro to play major league baseball, is by Bill Roeder, a native of Brooklyn, who covers the Dodgers for The N. Y. World-Telegram.

Both books are illustrated with photographs and each contains a foreword by Tom Meany. Although millions of words have been written about these two great athletes, these books contain intimate glimpses of their lives and their baseball careers that have escaped baseball reporters and other new material. they credit Joe with a total of 17 chances, a lone assist among them. They also show that Joe's batting average was .375, highest of the Series.

Joe Jackson could really pound that baseball and he is in the select company that Tom Meany has assembled between the covers of this interesting book about baseball's great hitters during the Twentieth Century.

Georgia is honored with the No. 1 spot in the book. It is, of course, occupied by the space given over to the one and only "Georgia Peach," Tyrus Raymond Cobb. The others are, in the order of their appearance, Eddie Collins, Joe DiMaggio, Jimmy Foxx, Lou Gehrig, Harry Heilmann, Rogers Hornsby, Jackson, Ralph Kiner, Nap Lajoie, Stan Musial, Mel Ott, Babe Ruth, Al Simmons, George Sisler, Tris Speaker, Bill Terry, Honus Wagner, Paul Waner and Ted Williams.

This is the second of this author's series on "Baseball Greats," his first being "Baseball's Greatest Teams," also published by Barnes, the world's largest publishers of books on sports. Succeeding books will cover the greatest pitchers and managers.

Robbie and the Kid at Bat

JACKIE ROBINSON. By Bill Roeder. 183 pp. New York: A. S. Barnes & Co. $2.50.

TED WILLIAMS. By Arthur Sampson. 180 pp. New York: A. S. Barnes & Co. $2.50.

By HARVEY BREIT

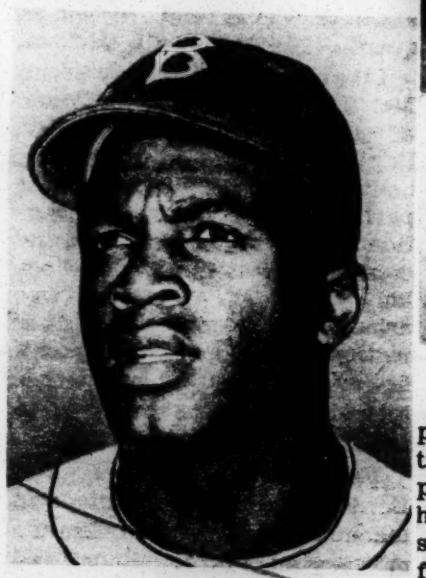
THERE is as yet no fear of getting called up before Senator Joseph McCarthy if you insist that baseball is strictly a sport and a recreation—even though it is the national pastime. Nevertheless, a few years ago an event occurred, indigenous to baseball and yet extra-curricular, that must be admitted into the annals of bat-glove-and-ball as one of great historical moment. That event was the coming-out party of Jackie Robinson, currently the electrifying second baseman of the Brooklyn Dodgers. The event could also be called the Branch Rickey-Jackie Robinson parlay.

To put it succinctly, what Rickey-Robinson did was to smash the Jim Crow rule implicit in professional, organized baseball. Since Robinson's debut, Negro players have become acceptable to the other big league teams.

There isn't any question of Robinson's big league ability; not any more. Mr. Roeder, in his book, offers ample proof. Robinson is one of the very few triple-threat men in the game today; he is a dangerous hitter, a sure fielder, a brilliant baserunner. His reflexes are perhaps the sharpest in the game. He is the most damaging tormentor of opposition pitchers today: at the plate he can drop a perfect bunt, slash a double (which he may stretch into a triple), hit the long ball; on the bases his daring leads tend to destroy the pitcher's concentration on the batter.

THESE virtues are not even the main fabric of the Jackie Robinson story. Robinson, as the author points out, did a nearly impossible heroic job. He was the pioneer who had to face the most severe privations. There were threats and pressures, isolation and ostracism, threatened petitions and potential strikes. He was a Negro—fighting for more than his career—under a white man's relentless spotlight. Luckily, he was not alone.

A veteran follower of the national game, Mr. Breit frequently represents The Book Review at Yankee Stadium.

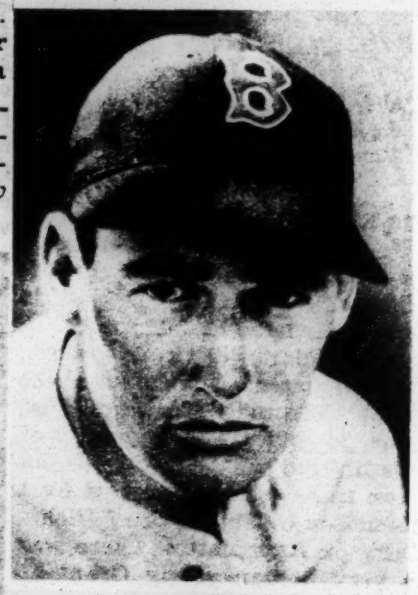


Jackie Robinson.

Branch Rickey, the president of the Brooklyn club, guided and helped Robinson (he had, after all, singled Robinson out for the magnificent experiment), and together they carried through a carefully nurtured plan. The story of Robinson is also, the story of Rickey—and if all that Mr. Roeder says is true, America has a fascinating and stirring figure in Mr. Rickey.

Ted Williams, "most valuable player" in the American League, is perhaps the most colorful figure in the game today. No fan is indifferent to the "splendid splinter." Whether violently for or against, all concede he is the game's most natural and destructive batter. In the past twenty years only Williams has hit over the coveted .400 mark. A reasonably astute observer cannot help but be profoundly impressed by the gangling kid with his perfect timing and his whiplash motion.

MANY Boston fans are carrying on a feud with Wiliams; he is booed and jeered and hissed at. Mr. Sampson suggests it's perhaps that Williams doesn't tip his cap when he crosses the plate after he slams out his home runs; or that he fails to smile; or that he's been a little forthright in his observations. It does not matter. The Kid, at this juncture, commands the highest salary ever paid to a ball player (something over $100,000 a season).



Ted Williams.

BOTH "stories" or biographies leave something to be desired in flair and insight and bounce. Mr. Roeder writes in deadpan, as if he feared anything but the "statistical objective." He goes a bit far when he refers to Rogers Hornsby as "a retired ballplayer and a Texan." Mr. Hornsby was only the greatest right-handed batter the game ever had. Mr. Sampson is a little sprightlier. Nevertheless, both books have the enormous virtues of telling their stories simply and with pace, and of presenting their resistant materials in orderly fashion. With Robinson and Williams at bat, perhaps all the reader will want is a clear view, and this the authors provide.

Stomping Piano Man

When Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, regarded by the aficionados as the king of all jazz trumpet players and "hot" vocalists, was asked to review "Mr. Jelly Roll," he replied, "Glad to do. He was my boy."

MR. JELLY ROLL. By Alan Lomax. 336 pp. New York: Duell, Sloan & Pearce. $3.50.

By LOUIS ARMSTRONG

JUST finished reading the story of Jelly Roll Morton, a great piano man of Storyville. I think it is one of the finest stories ever written on early New Orleans Jazz, and I, being a personal friend of Jelly Roll, you know that story thrills me, of his life.

I didn't meet Jelly Roll until the early Twenties in Chicago, as he left New Orleans way before I got to play music—the year of 1906, and he lived in Los Angeles, California and stayed there practically all his life, till the Twenties, when he started recording around Chicago, and there he wrote so many stomps (he called them) especially the "King Porter Stomp" and "Grandpa's Spells," and there's another I recorded for him—"Wolverine Blues," Walter Winchell even mentioned it as a fine tune and a fine recording.

Jelly Roll Morton had a wonderful sense of humor. You could tell he was a man who knew his instrument very well, and anyone that didn't believe it—he'd prove it to them! You know, he'd love to gather a lot of musicians around on the corner and have little cute arguments about music—yeah! And he was talkin' with some musicians one day, about his ability on the piano, and some little guy comes up and asks him—he said "Jelly, you must be the best piano player in town."

And Jelly answered by saying, "In town???? In the world!" Heh heh.

And I admired that gold tooth he had with the diamond in it. Heh heh.

A lot of things he said pertaining to Storyville I remembered even after I left New Orleans. He would play in Lulu White's sporting house, and all the best places where colored musicians could not play—so quite naturally he made more money and had more than the average musician that was in Storyville, and he did wear the best clothes.

Jelly Roll Morton.

Now I never did hear Jelly Roll in a band. He always played either by himself or had his own combination for recordings. So when he got to Chicago (staying in California, I personally think, set him back twenty years or more) he ran into "awful" good piano players, such as Earl Hines, Teddy Weatherford (that piano man played in the symphony orchestra at the Vendome Theatre, under the direction of Erskine Tate). Then, after I left Chicago I didn't see Jelly Roll again till practically five years, and then I saw him on Seventh Avenue with the same crowd—telling them how good he is. But he was always making good records and writing those good stomps (that's what they call them, but they're tunes). Then I didn't see him for five years.

Just before he died he was the picture of health and still had that spirit. No one ever thought he was ill because he always had that jolly spirit and everyone was always lookin' for him on the corner—because they knew they'd always get a boot out of him. Then, the last I heard of Jelly, the last tune he wrote that went big for a while was "Grandpa's Spells."

So Jelly is gone now, and there are hundreds of musicians who are sorry that happened because he was really a stimulant to them.

Now that his book has come out everybody's gonna get one, and as for me—I'm gonna buy a book and keep the one I already have. Here's wishing all the success in the world to "Mr. Jelly Roll."

Mister Jelly Roll

It was a hot May afternoon in 1938 in Washington. To the Library of Congress, in his long, black Lincoln, came Jelly Roll Morton. Jelly Roll looked like a million dollars. His expensive suit was immaculate and sharply pressed; his gold rings and watch fob shone, and so did the diamond set in his front incisor. With confident step, Jelly went to the austere Coolidge Auditorium in the Library.

Tossing his straw hat on the piano bench, Jelly Roll raised the lid of the Steinway, placed a bottle of bourbon within easy reach, and sat down to play "Alabama Bound." On the floor, with a recording machine behind him, sat Alan Lomax, then assistant in charge of the archives of American Folk Song at the Library. And thus began a recording session of unique importance, for one of the great men of jazz was to tell the story of his life in words and in music—significant music, for Jelly Roll Morton was the master pianist of the golden age of jazz.

As discriminating collectors of jazz records know, the result of that extraordinary session is available only in a set of twelve Circle albums, costing $125. But the saga which Lomax heard that May and June so stirred him that he began a book about Morton and his music. First he tried writing it his way, and then realized that the story had to be told as much as possible in Jelly Roll's own words, and in the language of the late Jelly's contemporaries. "Mister Jelly Roll,"* published last week, is the product and it is a remarkable book. Knowing how most people are likely to remember things as they wish they had happened instead of how they actually did happen, Lomax has checked and double-checked as carefully as possible. Hence, "Mister Jelly Roll" is a sound documentation of the man and his era. Lomax has recreated faithfully the vividly colorful era.

Jelly Roll Morton, born Ferdinand La Menthe in New Orleans, is a hard man to take for a hero. As a pianist, composer, bandleader, and general all-around force in the development and flowering of New Orleans jazz, he all but stands alone. But as a personality, he is anything but ingratiating. "At first I hated him," confesses Lomax. "Then suddenly, I saw that here was the answer to how a culture began."

*318 pages. Duell, Sloan & Pearce. $3.50.

Otto Hess

Jelly Roll told his own life story

To begin with, Jelly Roll was an unmitigated braggart. "I personally originated jazz in New Orleans in 1902," he often stated. He got his start in the tenderloin district, playing piano in some of the best-known plush parlors of prostitution. He was adored by the ladies, and not above taking anything he could get from them. He was a pool shark, a gambler, and a promoter of any racket that might produce easy money. He was a lonely man and had few friends. Because he was a light-skinned Creole (he changed his name to Morton to avoid being called Frenchy), he refused to admit he was a Negro. Hence, he was accepted by neither white nor black.

It is hard, therefore, to admire this solitary, prideful, shady, conceited figure—hard, that is, if one has not heard Jelly Roll on records. "A clear conviction emerges from long listening to Jelly Roll Morton," says Lomax. "With all his failings and all his cliches, he was the most original figure in the golden decade of hot records. His records (beginning with his piano rolls of 1920 on to his Victor orchestra sessions in 1929) are always ahead of the best records of other musicians of the same years."

Jelly died in Los Angeles of heart trouble and asthma on July 10, 1941. He was broke, and his diamonds (during flush years he covered himself with them, even to solid gold sock supporters set with diamonds) had gone one by one. The few friends who came to his funeral noticed a ragged hole in that front tooth. Even that one was gone.

Social Stresses

KILLERS OF THE DREAM. By Lillian Smith. Norton. $3.

It is possible that in planning her book Lillian Smith had broad generalizations in view but the fact that she resorts to emotional appeal, using racial distinctions in the South to illustrate her point, will narrow her treatise down, for the majority of readers, to an exposition of segregation, what she sees as its inherent and implied evils, and the solution she proffers. A glance at the titles in the foreword and the memory of certain excerpts in the body of the book substantiate this belief.

From her wide reading of philosophy and sociology plus the stream of her own Freudian altruism, she charges the world, particularly the South, with betrayal of Christian and democratic tenets in superior attitudes toward minorities — attitudes which belie long-inculcated ideals of brotherhood and Americanism.

Sex is revealed as the underlying cause of disturbing psychic factors which manifest themselves as difficulties between groups of people and the poor white class is shown to be a third disruptive element in the South's economic and social system.

The subject matter of this new book by the author of "Strange Fruit" is controversial; its treatment, an abstraction and a theory, its conclusions unmistakeable.

LILLIAN SMITH
still crusading

Lillian Smith Sees Few Changes In Southland, Pleads For Children

By LILLIAN SCOTT

NEW YORK — The small, patrician embodiment of the South's conscience, Miss Lillian Smith, passed through New York last week en route to Durham, N. C., where she was to be honored guest at that city's first books and authors luncheon.

Miss Smith had many disturbing things to say about the growth of American children, but she took time out to say in praise of Durham, "This is the first time since I have been writing that I have been accepted in the South as an author and made an honored guest."

The well-known author of "Strange Fruit," and more recently, "Killers of the Dream," smiled and added, "There will be many, many people there, of course, who disagree with me, but it proves to me that the South is getting to the place where it can disagree without making martyrs of its citizens. It disproves Hodding Carter's thesis that these things cannot be discussed in the South."

Praises N. Y. Center

While Miss Smith was in New York, she visited the Northside Center for Child Development where she met the press. She said that the center was the only one which she knew that accepted children of all races and creeds for psychological testing and guidance.

She felt that the Northside Center was an "especially interesting one" also, because of its close working relationship with the New Lincoln School which is housed in the same building on upper Manhattan's 110th st.

"I feel it's so important what happens to a child," Miss Smith declared. "A child must be accepted and esteemed by his community. The subtle poisons of a system which does not accept its children—sometimes showing its rejections in crude ways as in the South, in quieter ways as in the North—are so damaging.

"I'm thrilled and excited by an experiment like the center which is made up of grownups and young human beings working together with their differences in personality, and something as superficial," she smiled, "as color."

While she posed for photographers and later, Miss Smith laughed and talked with young Peter Ascoli, whose mother, Mrs. Max Ascoli is a daughter of the late Julius Rosenwald, and president of the Center's Board. Her easy way with young Pete, an intelligent albeit somewhat brash lad, testified to Miss Smith's ability to understand youngsters and to be liked by them.

A serious author with gray hair, Miss Smith has a definite penchant for smart clothes. Nevertheless dressed in a simple black outfit she wore a pin of gold in a delicate bow design at her neck. Her hat was a gray felt with a dashing gray scarf with red polka dots drapped around it, and then about her throat.

Discusses Children

In a quiet discussion with the Center's founders, Drs. Mamie and Kenneth Clark, and Mrs. Ascoli, Miss Smith declared, "There is no normal white child in this country, certainly not in the South and perhaps only a few exceptions in the North. Our white children are trained in arrogance and dullness of feeling."

She traced her own interest in children back to her work as a teacher in China and to the time after her return to the United States when she took over a camp for girls in Clayton, Ga., founded by her father. "I began to know we must have good growing weather for children," she said. She did exhaustive reading in psychology and psychiatry—Freud, Jung, Adler, and all other contemporary material in the field.

"I was determined not to have the usual camp with all the competitiveness, the over-emphasis on athletics and the 'star system.'"

While it was in operation her camp had 74 children and one psychologically trained counselor for each two children. Through discussion and careful guidance the children who came of the South's wealthiest and socially prominent families gained maturity. They grappled with the problem of race and each summer did something definite, however small, to put their new beliefs into action. Last year Miss Smith closed her camp because she felt she could no longer operate it unless Negro children could come.

While she believed that "these parents know their children will live in a different world and they want them to be prepared," she knew also, that many would not yet openly fight for a bi-racial camp.

Airs Her Views in Atlanta

ATLANTA—Lillian Smith famed author of "Strange Fruit" and "Killers of the Dream," invaded Atlanta last week, so to speak, receiving at least one adverse press report on her appearance at Atlanta University and Morehouse College.

Addressing the A. U. forum, Miss Smith declared that the South's phrase: "separate but equal, is the most fantastic mess" ever conceived. The author declared that she didn't believe a true American believed in segregation and that the issue should be of concern to young white people.

According to Miss Smith, segregation and the racial problem are problems of the white group and not of the Negro group. She believes the issue today to be between those who believe in human dignity, acceptance and one world, and those who move to keep things as they are.

Appearing before Morehouse College students, Miss Smith declared that the white child is as deeply injured by the pattern of Southern life as the Negro child, since he is taught arrogance, cruelty and pride in the color of skin.

Miss Smith said that the Germans turned out to be worse people than the Jews whom they despised and persecuted, as an example of history.

"Any attempt to reset the walls separating peoples of the world today is mere play acting and a failure to accept what the present-day world imposes upon them," the speaker declared.

The need today is to develop the "whole man" capable of living in a "whole world," Miss Smith stated. People who can project themselves and envision a world and society based on justice and human equality and who will work in their respective spheres are needed for the realization of the dream, she said.

Miss Lillian Smith Tells How New Book Has Stirred Nation

"Killers of the Dream" Draws Both Praise and Criticism, Author States

CLAYTON, GEORGIA—Miss Lillian Smith, author of "Strange Fruit" and "Killers of the Dream" issued a reply the past week to hundreds of people who have written to her about the latter book. She received too many letters to answer them all personally and instead she wrote and mailed to individuals and the press a general reply to the most prominent of the questions asked about "Killers of the Dream."

She admits that the book has drawn the fire of conservatives of the South while in the North some people go into the bookstores, "pick up the book, look at it, fascinated as if gazing at a rattlesnake and walk out again." Northerners want to pretend, says Miss Smith, that the subject she deals with is "Dixies problem" but she holds that "sin, sex and segregation do really have something to do with each other; that segregation and overesteem of skin color have to do with our hearts and our bodies and our religious beliefs as well as with our money and our war for human dignity and a

Her severest critics, Miss Smith reveals, are in Atlanta and after her book were sold almost immediately two of them are Messrs. Ralph McGill and Jack Tarver, editors of the Atlanta Constitution. They say Miss Smith is intolerant in what she writes and both the South. But many of liberals of the South, she says, consider "Killers of the Dream" im-

Her main purpose in writing the book, Miss Smith says, was to "give insight, to stir imaginations, so that we can accept ourselves and all the earths peoples as human beings. Once accepting, can go on with the job of making a new world—world of open spaces with no walls in minds of between nations throw their shadows across our children's lives.

That is my dream."

An Author Speaks

Lillian Smith, author of "Killers of the Dream," discusses her book with Dr. Naomi Clark, (seated right), director of the Center for Children, New York City, and Mrs. Marion Ascoli, president of the board of directors at the center. Miss Smith is also author of the former best seller, "Strange Fruit."—Cecil Layne photo.

Books of the Times

By ORVILLE PRESCOTT

NEGLEY FARSON'S "Last Chance in Africa"* is an extraordinarily lively and well-written book about one of the most interesting spots on earth, Kenya Colony on the African east coast. The combination is a good one, a first-rate reporter with tireless energy and insatiable curiosity and a wildly dramatic country which has received little attention from journalists. There have been many books about Kenya; but most of them have been accounts of big-game hunting with such titles as "On Safari Among the Kikuyus" or "African Animals I Have Shot." Several good novels have been laid in Kenya, and there is at least one distinguished and beautiful book of Kenya reminiscences, "Out of Africa," by Isak Dinesen. Mr. Farson's book is personal journalism of a high order.

Negley Farson

It should appeal to anyone who enjoys travel books and to anyone with even a mild interest in Africa.

Mr. Farson is the American adventurer and foreign correspondent who made himself famous in 1936 with his uninhibited autobiography, "Way of a Transgressor." Since then he has written several novels and several travel books, of which the best was his earlier book about Africa, "Behind God's Back." That one was based upon his trip to Africa in 1938. "Last Chance in Africa" covers four strenuous months spent in Kenya from November, 1947, to April, 1948.

Less Water for More People

Kenya is a new colony. The English have had a grip on it for only about fifty years. More than half of it consists of deserts, scrub and lava rubble. The "White Highlands," where British pioneer farmers are toiling prodigiously to earn a living and make a country, is "one of the loveliest countries on the face of this earth." There, at altitudes of 6,000 to 8,000 feet, on farms of 20,000 acres and more, British farmers work all day long while their black employes work only from 7 to 1. But the "White Highlands" form only 13 per cent of Kenya. The rest is desert, semi-desert and native reserves.

Kenya is a land of four desperate problems, three of them the same as those which afflict much of Asia. The native population is much too great for the available food resources. "All but a minute proportion now spend some six months out of every year in a state of semi-starvation." Erosion and overgrazing is ruining much of the soil. There isn't enough water and there is less every year. All East Africa is drying up, says Mr. Farson. To these ancient ills is added the race problem.

*LAST CHANCE IN AFRICA. By Negley Farson. 381 pages. Harcourt, Brace. $5.

In Kenya are about 29,500 white people, 24,000 Arabs, 100,000 Indians and more than 5,000,000 Africans. While white settlers are determined to keep Kenya "a white man's country," the white colonial service men are striving valiantly to help the Africans. "They are the most professionally altruistic body of men I have ever encountered," says Mr. Farson. But their efforts are often nullified because of African suspicion of white intentions. Most male Africans are too proud to work, or see no use in it, when their wives can do what is necessary. They refuse to reduce the size of their cattle herds, which are their traditional wealth, and they refuse to adopt counter-plowing. And their numbers keep increasing. The problem is desperate. But Mr. Farson is encouraged by the sincerity and idealism of many of the men who are trying to cope with it.

Emergence of Personalities

"Last Chance in Africa" contains a deal of economic and sociological information, most of it presented in a brisk fashion with dramatic examples. It also contains many fascinating portrait sketches of representative persons, white and black, and the always entertaining thread of Mr. Farson's own adventures. He visited many farms and many native reservations. He inquired into the state of education (hardly started), the efforts being made to preserve animal life (elephants are actually increasing). And he made an extensive safari, by truck and car, up to the Abyssinian border through the deserts of the Northern Frontier District.

Two of the most interesting sections of Mr. Farson's book are those about the Masai tribe and about the nomads of the desert. The Masai are a proud race of warriors and cattle experts. They no longer can wage war, except for minor raids on the sly; but they still live on milk and blood taken direct from living cattle. They believe implicitly in witchcraft and are sometimes terrorized by their witch doctors. "If a Masai's wife bears him a child by another man, *that* man automatically becomes his best friend." The Masai despise white men. Most white men, including Mr. Farson, admire the Masai intensely and speculate most gloomily about what will become of them in the modern world.

In the deserts of the Northern Frontier District less than ten inches of rain falls in a year. Wells sixty feet deep are cut in steps through solid rock. No one knows who cut them. Water for sheep, cattle and camels is brought out of these wells by bucket brigades. The buckets are made of giraffe skin. Abyssinian bandits raid across the frontier and pagan Borans and Moslem Somalis survive almost by magic in one of the dreariest regions of the world. Mr. Farson's account of them is the colorful climax tc his absorbingly interesting book.

D. C. Woman Writes Book of Verse

Mrs. Bessie B. Winston of 1105 Q St., N.W., whose book of poems, "Life's Red Sea," has just been published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association.

"Life's Red Sea" Second Book of Poems by Washington Poet

Friends of Mrs. Bessie Brent Winston of 1105 Q St., N.W., are congratulating her, these days, on publishing a new little book of verse. It is called 'Life's Red Sea" and was printed by the Review and Herald Publishing Association in this city.

"Her poems are easily read, easily understood and impress everyone with the charm of her personality," writes Georgia Douglass Johnson in a foreword. Readers of the booklet will find that these words are true.

The simple joys of life and the consolation of spiritual fortitude in the face of despair are Mrs. Winston's themes. Her poems are inspired by a baby's smile, the sight of a flower, the memory of a friend, the solace of religion and similar experiences.

Written Previous Book

The author, also, of "Alabaster Boxes," Mrs. Winston is described by Mrs. Johnson as someone who "has been in touch with sorrow in some form or other since the first day she was born.

"Her path has not been an easy one, but she has kept going with songs on her lips and a pathetic sort of mirth in her heart," the reviewer added.

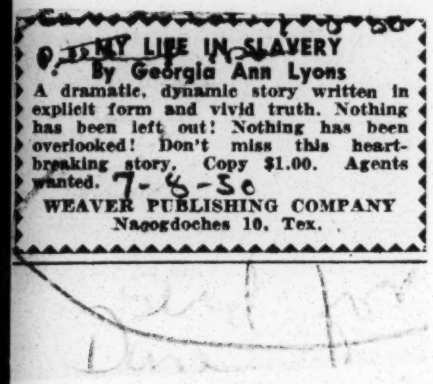
A typical poem from "Life's Red Sea" is "A Li'l Brown Baby's Smile," from which the following verses are quoted:

"I have found that heaps of sunshine,
'Nuff to light up each dark mile,
Can be had for just the taking,
From a li'l brown baby's smile.

He's no bigger than a minute
Jes 'bout reach up to my knee.
And a million miles from handsome,
But as cute as he can be.
Don't know nothing 'bout the Bible,
He ain't bothered 'bout no creed,
And he wouldn't know a preacher
From a bunch of tumble weed.
But he knows the law of kindness—
How to feel another's woe—
And his baby lips can't handle
Big, hard words that hurt you so.
Oh, how oft we go asearching
For earth's glitter and its gold,
And our feet grow worn and weary,
And our hearts grow hard and cold.
While we're leaving right behind us
Blessings in a strange disguise,
Like a dewy pearl aglistening
In a li'l brown baby's eyes."

26b 1950

My Life in Slavery


MY LIFE IN SLAVERY
By Georgia Ann Lyons
A dramatic, dynamic story written in explicit form and vivid truth. Nothing has been left out! Nothing has been overlooked! Don't miss this heart-breaking story. Copy $1.00. Agents wanted. 7-4-50
WEAVER PUBLISHING COMPANY
Nacogdoches 10, Tex.

Exceptional Story Of The South Today

LOST HOMECOMING, by Harry Harrison Kroll, Coward-McCann, Inc., 2 West 45th Street, New York 19, N. Y., 311 pages —$3.

HARRY H. KROLL

In this modern novel of a Southern farming community one thinks naturally of an Erskine Caldwell or a Lillian Smith put through two rinsing baths to erase the more objectionable filth and the four-letter words.

Here is a story with an ex-sharecropper for a hero, built around a community populated with white-trash sharecroppers, Negro sharecroppers, and the families of plantation owners, delving into the minds, the emotions, and the everyday life of these people, but with enough restraint to stay on the side of decency without submerging reality. To use another's rephrasing, LOST HOMECOMING does "not fall into depressing naturalism."

Darie Wesley Darius, a native of Cottontown, had returned in triumph to the scenes of his humble beginning, for the world premiere of his picture made from his best-seller book. As with so many first novels, his was autobiographical, and many of the characters were recognizable.

The initial audience, made up of the social leaders of the community, saw the picture with mixed emotions, ranging from the fury of Luie Ivey Pierce, who could recognize herself clearly in the picture, to Clara Bell, of the same wealthy family, an ultra-modern who pursues Darie with an eye to making him her third husband. The fact that he is happily enough married already is inconsequential.

Through the book the story progresses for a week of the premiere showing, turning back for chapters at a time to the time before Darie left (or rather escaped) Cottontown. Revealing without being revolting, entertaining without being filthy, it is an exceptional story about a strata of Southern life that many already have written about.

W. J. M., JR.

1951 Nation-wide administration of the
National Teachers Examinations-
Dr. Melvin O. Alston, Director of Education

Fla. A&M College Designated a Testing Center For 1951

Tallahassee, Fla.—A&M College has been designated as a testing center for the 1951 nation-wide administration of the National Teacher Examinations next Feb., Dr. Melvin O. Alston, director of Education announced recently.

College seniors preparing to teach inservice teachers desiring to raise their rank and teachers applying for positions in school systems which encourage or require applicants to submit their scores on the National Teacher Examinations along with their other credentials are eligible to take the tests. The examinations are prepared and administered annually by Educational Testing Service, Princeton, N. J.

The designation of Florida A&M College as a testing center for these examinations will give prospective teachers in this area an opportunity to compare their performance on the examinations with approximately 10,000 candidates throughout the country who will be participating in the nation-wide administration on February 17, 1951 Dr. Alston said. At the one-day testing session a candidate may take the Common Examinations, which include tests in Professional information, General Culture, English Expression, and Non-Verbal Reasoning. In addition, each candidate may take one or two of the nine Optional Examinations which are designed to demonstrate mastery of subject matter in the fields in which he may be assigned to teach.

Applications for the examinations and a Bulletin of information describing registration procedures and containing sample test questions may be obtained from Dr. Melvin O .Alston or directly from the National Teacher Examinations, Eduactional Testing Service, P. O. Box 592, Princeton, N. J. Prospective teachers planning to take the test should secure an Application and a Bulletin of Information promptly, Dr. Alston advised.

ANOTHER STUDY OF THE NEGRO IN THE U.S.

"Negroes in American Society" by Maurice R. Davie (Whittlesey House, McGraw Hill Book Company. $6.00) is a lucid book on a difficult subject. It is a distinct contribution to the problem of understanding Negro-white relationships.

Beginning with the Negro in Africa, Mr. Davie carries his readers historically through the slavery period, into tenancy, the growth of industry and the Negro's subsequent migration to the city.

From there on he makes a comprehensive study of the Negro's economic status, his housing conditions, the problem of health, his education, religion, the Negro press, criminality and Negro suffrage.

SEGREGATION AND Discrimination, the Negro question in wartime, lynching and race riots, intermarriage, the Negro reaction to his status, and finally the future of the Negro is discussed un detail.

The documentation is voluminous and the reader is conscious of the tremendous amount of study that went into the preparation of Professor Davie's book.

The author is objective in his presentation. He does not attempt to make a case for the Negro. However, as his material unfolds, the reader is made continuously conscious of the fact that discrimination and prejudice works almost as much hardship on the discriminator as it does on the group being discriminated against.

THROUGH THE HISTORICAL and sociological study in "Negroes in American Society" is important in understanding the problem, the last two chapters dealing with the future of the Negro are chapters that bring with them the great hope that the problem of the Negro-white relationships is not without solution.

From the philosophic generality, a quote from Ray Stannard Baker, in which he says, "As a fundamental proposition it will be found that the solution of the Negro problem lies in treating the Negro more and more as a human being like ourselves"; to the specific techniques used by agencies engaged in improving race relations, those last chapters are a storehouse of information on what can be done.

The author prepared the book to be used mainly as a text. However, the material is so valuable- if the layman is to understand, and contribute towards the betterment of race relations- that everyone in any position of authority will want to readit.

THE REVIEWER COMMENDS it to newspaper editors, miniters, teachers, political leaders and service club personnel as a guide in their thinking on this vital subject. A subject that has been uppermost throughout the history of America and continues to this day to influence the future of every citizen, both black and white.

This book ranks with the best of the more complete studies of the Negro.

Sabine Ehlers
Mill Valley, California

Courier
Pittsburgh, Pa.
Sat. 1-14-50

CORRESPONDENCE

Society and the Negro

SIR: I am somewhat shocked by the unqualified praise accorded by Mr. William Gardner Smith to Maurice Davie's *Negroes in American Society* in the April 17 issue of the *New Republic*. The reviewer passes over what to me seems a major defect in this book, namely, the tendency of Professor Davie to isolate the Negro problem from the problems facing other Americans.

Davie traps the reader two ways: (a) he intimates that Negro culture has certain characteristics which white culture does not have, when actually the patterns of Negro culture are only those of white America in an exaggerated form; (b) he finds the roots of Negro behavior in certain conditions of Negro social experience which, he states, are not suffered by whites. However, most of these conditions affect whites too, though perhaps in a less severe form. . . .

. . . Gunnar Myrdal, the Swedish social scientist . . . wrote in 1944 [in *An American Dilemma*]: "The Negro problem is an integral part of, a special phase of, the whole complex of problems in the larger American civilization. It cannot be treated in isolation. . . ."

. . . I believe that unless social scientists in their research into race relations adopt Myrdal's perspective, the information they uncover will reveal very little about how to improve the Negro's condition permanently.

Hanover, N. H. ROBERT GUTMAN

SIR: If Mr. William Gardner Smith's review of *Killers of the Dream*, by Lillian Smith, is indicative of his misrepresentation of the other two books he reviewed, he should stick to writing novels. . . .

Killers cannot be hewn to fit the narrow class-line concept in which Mr. Smith tries to force it. . . . It is a noble plea for the freedom and dignity of the human spirit. And that reason alone makes it infinitely more than "a psychoanalysis of a segment of the Southern middle class." The book is one of the best explanations yet for the paradoxical existence of Jim-Crowism in this liberty-loving land.

It is ridiculous to charge Miss Smith with saying that the Southern white is guilt-stricken solely because he has "memories of his Negro mammy." She shows how guilt feelings grow out of the great emotional complex of sex, sin and segregation. . . .

I like Mr. Smith's novel, *Last of the Conquerors*, but I think his book reviewing is terrible.

Chicago, Ill. EDWARD PEEKS

P. S. If it makes any difference, I am a Georgia-born Negro and have spent most of my twenty-nine years in the South.

SIR: In any comparative study of a group of people, there must be a fixed point from which deviations can be measured. Thus, Dr. Davie, using white America as his point, studies the status of the American Negro. It is correct, therefore, to say that there is overemphasis of religion among Negroes *as compared to whites*. It is correct to say there is greater poverty, greater unemployment, greater alienation from the society as a whole. . . . The position of the Negro in America *is* unique, in that, piled on top of the problems the Negro suffers in common with the general white population, are the myriad additional problems which derive solely from his skin color (segregation in schools and the Army, violence and the fear of violence, etc.). There is a bribe attendant upon class society: the intelligent white worker can *hope* to rise above his class. No such bribe is held out to the Negro; no matter what his intellectual achievements or financial status, he will always be subject to the insults visited upon Negroes. The difference is the very great one between class and caste.

It is true that the Negro problem is an integral part of the whole complex of problems of the larger American civilization, true that this problem can be solved only in conjunction with the solution of general American - and, indeed, world problems. This in no way precludes a study of the objective conditions of Negro life, with analysis of the social and psychological results of these conditions, even where the correct solution to the problem is not indicated.

To lay the racial ills of the South at the feet of a sort of mass psychosis growing out of the manias of sin, sex and segregation, as Miss Smith does, is to move only halfway toward the basic truth. Racial prejudice is at base a sociological problem; only afterwards does it become a psychological one. This difference in emphasis is one of my disagreements with Miss Smith.

I take exception most strenuously, however, to her "solution." She seems to feel that the individual white man must search himself, decide he is doing evil, and then resolve to do good, to "climb thin air into the unknown." This is also her "noble plea" for the solution of the problem of "man's relation to man in the community of the world." I believe this is unreal. It is like a plea for universal disarmament or world government, with the objective world what it is today. There are difficult, concrete problems to be solved; they must be solved in a concrete manner, not by mysticism or even mass application of Freudian psychoanalysis.

WILLIAM GARDNER SMITH

Philadelphia, Pa.

Newsweek's History of our Times

Fine New Yearbook Of Vital Events

NEWSWEEK'S HISTORY OF ..OUR TIMES, Vol. 1 (Covering Events of 1949), by the Editors of Newsweek, Funk and Wagnalls, 153 East 24th Street, New York 10, N. Y., 466 pages including chronology and index plus photographs—$6.

With an interpretive, classified survey of the momentous year of 1949, a new yearbook makes its bow. And what a grand yearbook it is.

Here is a work that will be generally welcomed, filling competently a need that has long needed filling.

Because it will be of particular interest to Alabamians, let's look at the index for what the book says of John Crommelin. There are references: 49-52, 54. And under the heading, "Crommelin Speaks His Mind," you'll find this:

"Over and over again, Captain John G. Crommelin, Jr.'s demure, bespectacled wife, Lillian, had pleaded with him to keep silent. Say nothing, and in the normal course of things he would come up for admiral in November. One of the five fabulous Crommelins' (brothers, Naval Academy graduates, four of them fliers), of whom two were killed in combat in the Pacific, he was only forty-seven now. The hero of the sinking of the carrier Liscome Bay in the invasion of the Gilberts, and later commander of the carrier Saipan, he faced no limit on how far he might rise. That is, provided he kept his mouth shut.

"James C. Austin of the United Press Washington staff, who lives next door to Crommelin in fashionable Georgetown, seconded Mrs. Crommelin's pleas with blunt common sense. It was quixotic to fight the inevitable—and perhaps suicidal. Crommelin was one lone naval officer. Against him were ranged the Commander in Chief of the Army, Navy, and Air Force, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. True, other naval officers felt the way Crommelin did, but the only support they could give him would be moral.

"Nothing could dissuade Crommelin. To every argument, his answer was the same: 'We can't go on like this. We've got to settle ths question now. There's no time to lose.'"

It goes from there into a detailed assessment of subsequent developments, including Crommelin's quoting of navy admirals in support of his views, and Admiral Denfield's statement (which cost him his job) that "The entire issue is the Navy's deep apprehension for the security of the United States. This apprehension arises from the trend to arrest and diminish the Navy's abilities to meet its responsibilities."

The developments that led finally to the retirement of Captain Crommelin were developments of this year and one must wait for Vol. 2 to read about them.

NEWSWEEK'S HISTORY OF OUR TIMES is divided into a variety of divisions, patterned after Newsweek itself, and cross-indexed so that one may readily find any major happening of the year 1949. There is also a division of photographs. The book will be generally welcomed.

—W.J.M.,JR.

Noted Priest Discusses Race Book

NEW YORK — Father John LaFarge, S. J., author of "No Postponement," published here by Longman's Green and Company, discussed the book recently on the Mary Margaret McBride Program over Radio Station WNBC. Father LaFarge is chaplain of the Catholic Interracial Council of New York and was formerly editor of AMERICA. "No Postponement" discusses America's moral leadership and the problem of racial minorities.

New Book on South's Race Relations Written By Negro Educator in Ala.

The South is at the cross-roads, politically, economically and socially, and battle lines are forming in the struggle for a new era, according to the Rev. C. C. Coleman of Mobile, Ala., author of a new book on race relations.

Entitled, "Patterns of Race Relations in the South," and just published by the Exposition Press of New York ($2), Dr. Coleman's work is a forthright examination of the complex problem of racial discrimination in the South and the solutions to it.

Written informally rather than as a sociological study, "Patterns of Race Relations in the South" represents the opinions and judgments of an able observer, a native of the South, a Negro, who has spent his life battling against the myth of racial superiority. His book gives provocative insight into the nature of the color line and the sanctions leveled against each other reciprocally by blacks and whites.

"Patterns of Race Relations in the South" concerns itself with analyzing the paternalistic technique and "keeping the Negro in his place;" "Uncle Toms" and Jim Crowism; race baiting and race purity.

Dr. Coleman also examines the role of unionism in race relations and economic survival. He covers the mounting tensions in the South, the segregated social order, the factors of education and religion; Southern politics and States' Rightism.

In his last chapters, the author states that color is no longer the automatic deciding factor in positions on social issues. He emphasizes that varying institutions, classes and groups are joining together in a common movement because whites and blacks have rediscovered the fact that the welfare of all people is linked indissolubly.

Dr. Coleman points out that the increasing resurgence of masked and hooded men is a sign of fear and the seriousness of the threat to conservatism and reaction, but, he says, upheaval of the South's "Master Race" philosophy and white exclusivism will be achieved.

Dr. Coleman, who was born in Key West, Fla., received his B.A. degree from Livingstone college, Salisbury, N. C., his Ph.D. from McKinley-Roosevelt college in Chicago, and his D.D. from Hood Theological Seminary, Salisbury, N. C.

An educator, minister, leader in public affairs and active worker in interracial groups, he is currently minister of the State Street AME Zion church in Mobile, Ala. Age 43, Dr Coleman has traveled extensively in the North as well as in the South and he has been a pastor in large cities and small towns in Arkansas, Iowa, North Carolina, South Carolina, and in Alabama.

PREJUDICE IN TEXTBOOKS, by Maxwell S. Stewart (Public Affairs Committee, Inc., 25 cents, paper). A pamphlet report of an American Council on Education Study.

Study Finds Prejduice in History Textbooks

Minority Group Either Ignored or Treated Unfairly, Amity Conference Pamphlet Says

NEW YORK (NNAP) — Many history books tend to ignore colored Americans altogether, according to the current Public Affairs pamphlet, "Prejudice in Texbooks."

The pamphlet summarizes an American Council on Education study, made possible through a grant of funds from the National Conference of Christians and Jews and offers a number of concrete suggestions for improving the teaching of inter-group relations at every school level.

The study takes the position that the way in which the textbooks treat colored people is "especially significant," since they constitute the largest minority group in the country.

Heritage Falsely Presented

"Some of the recently prepared texts devote considerable attention to them as important American people," the pamphlet states, adding; "the average text and teaching guide, however, tend to ignore them—particularly their position in present-day America."

The study points out that "little or nothing is to be found in most textbooks about the colored Americans' cultural background in Africa."

History and geography textbooks usually depict Africa "as a continent of strange and backward people," the pamphlet says, and "natives are assumed to possess only the simplest culture."

But scholars in recent years have found that many of the African slaves came from "a highly advanced civilization," the pamphlet asserts.

Slave Uprisings Forgotten

The pamphlet also points out that a great majority of the books which give considerable attention to the slave period, picture the slaves as "well treated, contented and happy."

Dissatisfaction among the slaves, the pamphlet states, is evidenced by more than a hundred revolts.

While the Nat Turner rebellion is frequently mentioned, the study asserts, it is "usualy explained as a result of Northern abolitionist efforts rather than of slave unrest.

Reconstrucgion Misinterpreted

The pamphlet also points out that discussions of colored Americans during the Reconstruction era "too often stress" the participation of the freedmen in the corruption of that period, without explaining why incompetent freedmen were elected to office.

"The fact that not all colored politicians were incompetent, and that not all white office-holders were competent, is not made as clear as it should be," the pamphlet continues.

After dealing with the Reconstruction period, many history books tend to ignore colored Americans altogether, the study states, adding:

"Little is told about the pressures and currents in their present difficult struggles in America. The way in which they have entered new occupations and improved their standing in the older jobs, often against heavy odds, is seldom stressed."

Only Individuals Named

Even books which recognize the contributions which colored people have made to American civilization, the pamphlet declares, neglect to mention more than one or two outstanding colored persons.

The study also points out that most textbooks also neglect to mention that colored persons, as well as a considerable number of whites, are disfranchised.

Of 20 popular problems texts examined, only five mentioned colored people in connection with the vote. Of the 19 civic texts, only three discuss colored people in relation to the right to vote.

Gloss Over Segregation

The study also noted that most textbooks also neglect racial segregation in education, and some of those which do deal with segregation and discrimination in education, "treat the problem in such a way that they do not appear to conflict with democratic ideals."

The report points out:

"Yet a discussion of segregation in the schools, with studies of 'How did the school system get that way?' would seem to offer an unparalleld opportunity for a realistic discussion of the broader problems of racial discrimination."

Curriculum Revision Basic

The basic weaknesses, the pamphlet concludes, lie "not in texts alone but in the courses of study for which textbooks are prepared.

Only as these courses of study demand the inclusion of topics on inter-group relations, some of which are inevitably controversial, will the textbooks be subsantially improved.

"A remaking of curriculums must precede the revision of textbooks. That revision involves, first, the writings of passages focused directly on the description and exposition of contemporary inter-group relations, and second, careful scrutiny of the indirect references now in the textbooks," the study concluded.

26b 1950

Progress of Negro Education in the South
by-Dr.S.I. Smith, Provost Emeritus,Peabody College

New Book Traces Negro Education

NASHVILLE—A book tracing the progress of Negro education in the South over the past forty years has been written by Dr. S. I. Smith, provost emeritus of Peabody College.

The book, to be published this summer by the Tennessee Book Company, first outlines in detail what has been done since 1940 in setting up Negro educational divisions in the state departments of education in sixteen Southern states.

They Live In Harlem

THE PUERTO RICAN JOURNEY. By C. Wright Mills, Clarence Senior, Rose Kohn Goldsen. 238 pp. New York: Harper & Bros. $3.

By CHARLES GRUTZNER

THE migrant from Puerto Rico to New York has been subjected, despite his birthright of United States citizenship, to more tensions, misconceptions and outright slander than the members of groups who came overseas in earlier waves of immigration. Three members of Columbia University's Bureau of Applied Social Research have prepared a painstaking and precisely documented report that shows up some of the popular distortions for what they are and offers an understanding view of the difficulties, limitations, aspirations and potentialities of the United States Latins.

Without doubt the most widely circulated fable about New York Puerto Ricans, who constitute 95 per cent of all the migration from the island to continental United States, is that they vote en bloc for Representative Vito Marcantonio, who has often been pictured as colonizing "Spanish Harlem" with Puerto Ricans to strengthen the political forces of the Left. The authors of the Columbia-sponsored study disclose that less than half of the Puerto Ricans have at any time taken advantage of their voting privileges.

While the authors and their staff of interviewers have not attempted to pry into the political beliefs of those Puerto Ricans who are registered on our voting lists, they leave no doubt about Mr. Marcantonio's popularity among the voting migrants. A description of how the Marcantonio machine has met some of their needs is followed by the observation that Mr. Marcantonio's influence "seems likely to continue to flourish until other community organizations competitively succeed in servicing the needs of the migrants."

THE survey sets the number of Puerto Ricans in this city at 200,000, as of 1948. All other estimates had ranged from 300,000 to beyond 700,000. The study, under way since September, 1947, includes ninety-six tables, most of them original data, which will probably be a treasure trove to sociology students. The inexpert reader, who wants to get the true facts on a situation that has been oversensationalized, may find it a bit tough to wade through these charts, interspersed all through the text. If he wants the basic facts, however, it is worth the wading.

Most of the original information in this stimulating volume was obtained by the authors from personal interviews with members of 1,113 Puerto Rican households in Spanish Harlem and the Morrisania section of the Bronx.

"The Puerto Rican Journey," by C. Wright Mills, Clarence Senior and Rose Kohn Goldsen; Harper and Brothers, New York City; 1950; $3.00.

BOOK REVIEWS by GERTRUDE MARTIN

THE RECENT abortive attempt by Puerto Rican nationalists to assassinate the President has highlighted the relationship of that crowded island to the United States. Since both would-be assassins live in the section of New York City known as Spanish Harlem, a new book about Puerto Rican migrants there is especially significant.

"The Puerto Rican Journey" by C. Wright Mills, Clarence Senior, and Rose Kohn Goldsen is an examination of "New York's newest migrants" in the two most populous colonies they have established in New York, Spanish Harlem and the Morrisiana area of the Bronx. The three authors are associated with the Bureau of Applied Social Research at Columbia University which sponsored the book study.

In the two sections of the city examined the vast majority of the over 200,000 Puerto Ricans in New York live. The book is based on comprehensive interviews with 1,113 persons born in Puerto Rico who migrated to New York City chiefly for economic reasons. Some came, of course, as "followers" pulled by family ties to migrants who had left the island earlier. Most of them raised their earning power immediately but many also find it necessary to take jobs at lower skill levels than those they left.

Most migrant groups which have come to the United States have passed through a period of competition and conflict, then through one of adaptation to the new environment, and finally they are assimilated into the general population. This process is more difficult for Puerto Ricans for several reasons: the fact that they are occupationally restricted; that two-thirds of them are colored by American standards, and that there are more women than men and women's range of social circulation is very limited.

"The Puerto Rican Journey" is a brief book, yet one that gives an excellent picture of the group studied. The first chapter on Puerto Rico itself is concise but complete and gives the needed background for studying the migrants in New York. The opening statement: "If the United States were as crowded as Puerto Rico, it would contain almost all the people of the world," puts in stark terms the major problem of the island over-population.

The difficulties of the Puerto Rican migrants are not simply local ones for New York City, but concern the country as a whole, since they are intimately tied up with this country's rule of that island. "Puerto Rican Journey" offers an excellent opportunity for objective information about these migrants as contrasted with the highly colored stories so often run by newspapers.

Poor, But Not Helpless

Puerto Rico Blueprints 'Operation Bootstrap'

Post. Sun. 2-12-50

By Louis Brownlow

Mr. Brownlow is a recognized authority on public administration

PUERTO RICO'S ECONOMIC FUTURE. By Harvey S. Perloff. 435 pp. University of Chicago. $4.75.

THE problem of Puerto Rico is not an easy one to solve. It is not even an easy one to state.

Here on an island 1000 miles east of Florida, an island only 100 miles long and 30 miles wide, live more than 2 million citizens of the United States in the most densely populated area in the Western Hemisphere—more than 800 persons to the square mile. Their standard of living is low. Their natural resources, aside from the soil and the climate of perennial spring, are meager.

Nearly half of the families have an income of less than $500 a year, and the families themselves are big. The Puerto Rican birth rate is the highest in the world. The Puerto Rican death rate is lower than that in all save three or four countries of the world. The economy is overwhelmingly agricultural. Industrial development has been slow. Puerto Rico is poor.

All of these things are set out with great clarity and circumspection by Dr. Harvey S. Perloff, of the Institute of Planning of the University of Chicago. It is significant, however, that Dr. Perloff has given the volume a subtitle, "A Study in Planned Development." That such a study could be made and could be issued in such a thoughtful work as this is of itself proof that, although Puerto Rico may be poor, it is neither hopeless nor helpless.

Education Basic

TRUE, the standard of living is low. But although this island is much more crowded than any other in the Caribbean, its standard of living is higher than that of any of the other islands, including the Cuban, Haitian and Dominican Republics as well as the remaining European colonial possessions. At the base of its essential plan for its self-improvement, Puerto Rico puts education, and it spends more on education than any republic or colony in the Caribbean area.

Ruled for 400 years by a Governor appointed in Madrid and for 50 years by a Governor appointed in Washington, Puerto Rico is now completing its first year under the administration of a Governor elected by its own people. It was in preparation for that outstanding political event that the University of Puerto Rico asked Dr. Perloff to undertake the two-year survey, the results of which appear in this book.

His method was to use the remarkable statistical and informational facilities of the University of Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rican government as the basis for his writing; then to distribute drafts of his chapters to all of the leading government officials, economists, political scientists and educators; then to rewrite as a result of their comment; then to assemble some 40 or 50 of these leaders under the chairmanship of the Governor for a discussion of his text; and then finally to write what here is printed. (Incidentally, although the fact is not noted in this book the Governor gave a name to those sessions with Dr. Perloff—"The Parliament of Man.")

Essentially, though not textually, the study is divided into three principal parts. First, there is agriculture, by which most of the people live, but in which area higher productivity is possible and is being planned for. Second, there is industry, of which there is all too little, but which the government is determined to to develop and encourage. Third, there is the biggest problem of all—population.

Here, at any rate, there is no lack of productivity. Emigration has helped, but has not solved the problem. Birth control techniques, Dr. Perloff thinks, cannot be relied upon for a solution. He makes it plain that there is no simple answer to the question of how to support too many people on too little land.

The new Governor, Luis Munoz Marin, has said that Puerto Rico has abandoned Operation Lament in favor of Operation Bootstrap. Dr. Perloff faces up squarely to the difficulties that beset the Puerto Rican plans for the improvement of the island's economic future. But he does not despair.

Not only for those who are interested in the peculiar problems of Puerto Rico, but for anyone who is interested in how to plan for greater productivity, for a higher standard of living and for higher attainment in popular education, and how to make such a plan with eyes wide open to the hard facts that set up so many hurdles as the course is run toward the realization of rosy dreams, the reading of this book will be a rewarding experience.

Man the World Over

THIS IS RACE. An Anthology Selected from the International Literature on the Races of Man. Edited by Earl W. Count. 747 pp. New York: Henry Schuman. $7.50.

By S. L. WASHBURN

FOR many years specialists were able to study the races of man without being concerned with the social consequences of their investigations. But with the rise of biological interpretations of history and the persecution of minority groups race became a matter of social importance and general concern. However, it has been quite impossible for the layman to read what the authorities responsible for human racial classifications had to say because the original sources were very numerous, widely scattered, and in many languages.

Out of this vast literature Earl W. Count, head of the Anthropology Department at Hamilton College, has taken sixty selections from the writings of those who have done most to influence current conceptions of the races of man. The choices, based on several years of research and culled from a much larger number, are excellent. Many of these selections were originally in foreign languages (French, German, Italian, Norwegian, Russian, Spanish, Swedish) and were translated especially for this volume. I believe that Dr. Count is the only American anthropologist skilled in racial biology who possesses the necessary background in European languages and history to create such an anthology.

A dozen selections give the ideas of the pre-Darwinians on the classification of man. Buffon, Cuvier, and Lamarck are some of the zoologists who represent this era. The foundations of the more strictly anthropological classifications were laid by such men as Blumenbach, Broca, and Retzius. Then, under the tremendous impetus which the theory of natural selection gave to biology, came a vast number of descriptions and classifications. In this anthology the writings of Darwin, Huxley, and Haeckel set the stage, and excerpts from the works of the great students of human races follow (Deniker, Fischer, Haddon, Ripley, Sergi, Topinard, Virchow, and others).

NEARLY one-half of the selections are from writings of the last thirty years; Morant, von Eickstedt, and Hooton are as representative of this era as any. On the whole, the recent writings are elaborations of the earlier ones and there is no sharp break in the general tradition until the work of Boyd and Wiener, who offer facts and theories for the genetic classification of man. The brief bibliographic notes at the end of the volume are most useful in evaluating the individual selections, for they contain further references and provide a key to the vast literature on the races of man. This section will be of the utmost value to the serious student.

Naturally no two people would agree on precisely which sixty selections might form the best history of thought on racial questions. This anthology overemphasizes the importance of contemporary American scientists. The work of Weidenrich might well have received more space in view of his great contributions and influence, and one looks in vain for a representative of modern France, such as Vallois. But on the whole the choices seem nearly perfect. This is an important job well done.

Vengeance in the South

REPRISAL. By Arthur Gordon. 310 pp. New York: Simon & Schuster. $3.

By GRANVILLE HICKS

SINCE almost everybody has his dreams of vengeance, the theme of "Reprisal" makes an immediate appeal. Basing his story on the familiar facts of racial conflict in the South, Arthur Gordon has created a situation in which a strong case can be made for the avenger. A group of white men has killed four Negroes, and the grand jury has failed to indict anyone. Subsequently three of the white men have beaten up a witness, a Negro who talked too much. When these three are acquitted, in spite of overwhelming evidence, Nathan Hamilton, husband of one of the victims, takes matters into his own hands.

Mr. Gordon not only tells the story of Nathan's revengeance and explores the consequences; he introduces a Northern reporter to investigate and comment upon the background of the crime, and he weaves in a couple of love stories. He portrays in detail the poor-white lynchers, several Southern whites of a different caliber, and a variety of Negroes. There are serious discussions of the race question. In the course of one of them a judge, presumably serving in this instance as the author's spokesman, lays down a program for better race relations.

The judge's program includes stronger efforts to equalize education and justice and extend voting privileges to Negroes. Segregation, he says, should be retained "until it breaks down of its own accord. Any legislation that tries to end it now will fail just as Prohibition failed, because it won't have the support of the people. In fact, like most unenforceable laws it will only aggravate the situation."

All this is a good deal to get into one book, but Mr. Gordon knows how to keep his story moving. Although this is his first novel, he has edited slick paper magazines and has studied the tricks of the trade. A Southerner by birth, he knows his people and his background. He approaches the race problem with a sharp awareness of its urgency and also with intelligence and a generous resentment of injustice.

Yet, however serious his intentions, the reader is impressed less by what he says about race relations than by the skill with which he uses the tensions of racial conflict for the purposes of a thriller. In this respect the book has a certain resemblance to Faulkner's "Intruder in the Dust" but falls a good way short of it. The difference does not lie in the discussion of race relations, for Mr. Gordon's comments make more sense than Faulkner's, but in the realization of the people. Think, for instance, what Faulkner would have done with Nathan Hamilton, the avenger, who remains almost a blank in "Reprisal." Mr. Gordon's book, however, will probably sell better than Mr. Faulkner's, and will do no harm.

"Revolution in Mississippi"

NEGRO BUSINESS MEN

Revolution in Mississippi" is the caption of an interesting article in the current issue of "Ebony", a magazine for Negroes, published in Chicago. The article shows the splendid progress ebing made by Negroes in this state in various lines of endeavor,notably small business enterprises and agriculture.

In Greenville,according to the article,a Negro bakery has an estimated worth of $50,000 and about half its customers are white persons. A Negro laundry in the same community has $35,000 worth of equipment and employs three dozen workers. Other instances are cited showing how Negro business men are succeeding. Robert Snead, a contractor and house mover,obtained less than a high school education for himself, but five of his twelve children are in college, or have completed college course, and the other seven are assured of college education.

Greenville perhaps has a larger number of Negro business men, proportionate to population, than any other city in the state, but it is a fact that more Negroes in this state are succeeding in business nowadays than ever before. Moreover, they have the respect and confidence of white folks who are offering them all possible aid and encouragement to better their condition.

Daily News
Sun. 6-4-50
Jackson, Mississippi

OXFORD FORUM ADDRESSED

Racial Angle Novels Held Too Numerous

By YOLANDE GWIN
Constitution Staff Writer

OXFORD, June 21—Terming novels today "hangovers of the American Literary Renaissance of the Twenties and of the Depression Era," Harrison Smith, President and Associate Editor of the Saturday Review of Literature, said here Wednesday that "there are too many novels on racial subjects."

"I am disappointed in the novels which returning service men authors are turning out," Smith said, as he addressed some one hundred visitors to the Third Annual Georgia Writers Conference, "They are writing too much of the scars and errors of our country. We are hoping that the new novelists will have something to say good about our country. The field is open and the writer who has something to say of creative value is the one who will make the grade."

Topflight figures in the creative field of religious feature and novel-writing took part on the programs Wednesday which climaxed the second day's session of the conference.

Pointing out that the demand for religious writing is at its peak now, Pat Beaird Director of the Abingdom-Cokesbury Press, of Nashville, Tenn., and Atlanta, said that the market for this type of writing is always good in times of national distress.

"The reading public need these religious and inspirational books," he said. "People are anxious about the future and its uncertainty; the failure of the UN; the atomic threat and Russia's next move Everybody is looking toward religion."

Beaird was supported in his viewpoints and statements by such experts in the field as Mrs. Robert B. Church, Jr., Mrs. Charles Outlaw and Mrs. Luise Sims. Mrs. G. F. Spearman presided.

The feature article—which entertains, informs and teaches—came in for its share on Wednesday's program when a panel discussion on this type of newspaper and magazine writing was conducted by Harold Random. Mrs. Marguerite Barze, the principal speaker, a former Atlantan residing in Daytona Beach, Fla., told the gathering "to find out your specialty and stick to it."

Well known iln the field of personality writing, Mrs. Barze has sold countless "quiz" features based on psychology and on personality. Just last week she sold her 201st article of this type. She advised would-be writers to try their hand in the non-fiction field first. Her talk was followed by talks on feature writing by Henry Wright, associate editor of the Augusta Chronicle; Margaret Castleberry, society editor and columnist of the Gainesville Eagle; Yolande Gwin, Assistant Woman's Editor of The Constitution; Mrs. Frank Mack and Mrs. E. E. Lyon free lance writers. Harold Random lead the discussion. Evelyn Hanna Sommerville, former columnist of The Constitution, led the panel discussion at the night session when Harrison Smith discussed the modern novel.

Social events of the conference got under way Wednesday when a reception was held at the colonial home of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Jarrell with Mrs. Virgil Eady, wife of Dean Eady of Oxford as cohostess. The home was once the residence of Bishop A. G. Hagood of the Methodist Church and one time President of Emory-at-Oxford.

Writers, educators, visitors and "just friends" jammed the old home which reflected the charm of the old South in its antique furnishings. Renewing friendship with many of the Atlanta crowd was Mrs. F. B. Rawlings, of Sandersville, the former Mary Hardwick, who lived here when her father, the late Thomas W. Hardwick was Governor of Georgia. There was also Mrs. Nellie Womack Hines, of Milledgeville, who had her first "by-line" in The Constitution in 1897. Also in the crowd was Mrs. Hammond Johnson of Gainesville, who recently retired after teaching in the Gainesville High School for 25 years and who says she "has enough poems to fill 25 books." She is the granddaughter of Dr. Alexander Means, the third President of Emory-at-Oxford. Atlanta author, Mrs. Alva Maxwell, was receiving at the door and Miss Elise Boylston, formerly superintendent of art in the Atlanta elementary schools, was discussing the "how to do" technique with a group of teachers from her experience as department editor of the School Arts magazine.

Mrs. Howard Patillo, chairman of the nominating committee for the conference, introduced the following new officers: Mrs. Raymond Massey, founder of the conference, was re-elected President; Mrs. James E. Hays, Mrs. G. F. Spearman, Mrs. Howard Patillo, Mrs. Minnie Hite Moody and Daniel W. Hicky, all of Atlanta, and Edison Marshall, of Augusta, vice presidents; Miss Mary Clark, recording secretary; Mrs. Mildred Finch, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Claude Thompson, treasurer; Ollie Reeves, parliamentarian; Harold Random, auditor; Mrs. Frank Mack, custodian, and Mrs. Joseph Buffington, historian.

The conference will continue Thursday and will be climaxed son Friday night when the annual banquet will be held and prizes awarded.

Publishers Accused of 'Odorous Trick' in Their Promotion of Book on Scottsboro Case

By HODDING CARTER

Editor Delta Democrat-Times
Greenville, Miss.

SINCE THE BOOK and magazine publishing businesses are highly competitive affairs, it may sometimes be necessary for publishers to think up an odorous trick or two or three to sell their wares. That is the most charitable explanation for the promotion of a book, "Scottsboro Boy," and its Omnibook condensation.

The book itself is a collaboration between an editor of a Northern Negro newspaper and Haywood Patterson, the principal defendant in the case of a group of young Negroes accused and found guilty in Alabama 19 years ago of criminally assaulting two white girl tramps on a freight car.

VICTIMS OF PREJUDICE

Patterson escaped from an Alabama prison penal farm about two years ago after some 17 years' imprisonment and presumably has been in the safekeeping of friends somewhere in the East since his getaway. The other defendants were paroled at various times during the intervening years, the last one getting his freedom only a few days ago. The preponderant weight of evidence indicates that these Negroes were innocent and that they were the victims of violent prejudice.

But this unpleasant truth is no vindication either for the book itself or for the kind of publicity in which its publishers, Doubleday and Doran, and the publishers of its condensation have indulged. This is, of course, a mighty wicked and reactionary thing to say because those distant book reviewers who are drooling over the book will at once label such sentiments as positively klannish.

Nevertheless, such a statement is also the truth. Undoubtedly, the soul of Haywood Patterson has been understandably warped by 19 years of manifestly unjust imprisonment; and if only one-tenth of his story is true, no Southerner can defend the brutal practices of the Alabama penal system which it depicts, or his trial and sentencing. Even so, his autobiography is a uselessly foul and nauseous portrayal of human degeneration, obviously deliberately calculated to translate filth into a best seller. Perhaps Patterson cannot see the difference between factual reporting and putridity but his collaborator and his publishers could.

But what is even more significant is that the book is a loudspeaker for the party liners; tellingly Patterson and Conrad credit only the International Labor Defense with coming to the aid of the Scottsboro boys. In case you have forgotten, the ILD was a completely Communistic - dominated organization. And its early and provocative inference in the Scottsboro case ended what little hope the defendants might have had for acquittal. The authority for that statement is none other than Walter White, director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, whose long efforts for the defense are completely disregarded in this curious book. Surely there is more than coincidence in this book's adulation of the party's representatives and its neglect of a Negro organization which, however it may be criticized in the South for its uncompromising militancy, is certainly not Communistic.

'ROTTEN DEMAGOGUERY'

So much for the book itself. Before it appeared on the bookstands, I received a letter from the publicity director of Omnibook magazine, announcing that the condensation would shortly appear in that magazine and confiding that the book's publishers were not sending any copies to Alabama or Mississippi. The letter added with thinly disguised hopefulness that even Omnibook itself might be barred in the South (oh joy, oh free advertising, oh mounting sales!) and commented briefly "not that we care." I hadn't believed that a responsible publisher would deliberately withhold a book from two states for a sales come-on. A book dealer in Greenville ordered three copies as a test case. The publishers answered that they would forward the copies only if the dealer would agree to indemnify them against lawsuits. This was the first such stipulation from a publisher in the dealer's experience.

This story is proof positive that rotten demagoguery exists elsewhere in politics. It is cheap advertising, a cheap taking advantage of a tragic miscarriage of justice which no thinking Southerner defends today. And worse is its evidence that even the smart boys can and sometimes do swallow the party hook, line and sinker.

Gertrude Martin

'Scottsboro Boy' Tells A Sordid Story Of Brutal, Horrorful Life In Prison

"SCOTTSBORO Boy" by Haywood Patterson and Earl Conrad is a sordid story of man's brutality. Patterson is one of the nine Scottsboro boys who became known the world over, in 1931, as victims of Southern injustice. Since this book was published several weeks ago, the last of the Scottsboro boys still in prison was paroled. Patterson, who tells his story here, escaped in July, 1948, from an Alabama prison camp and is now living in the North, still fearful of the day when he may be discovered.

The story of the four trials in the Scottsboro case and the experiences of Patterson in two Alabama prison camps are told in Patterson's own words. For the most part, Mr. Conrad has done a good job of reporting this story, but the chief weakness of the book is his tendency to put thoughts and words into Patterson's mind which do not seem to belong there. This is especially true of a number of political statements Patterson makes, which seem oddly out of place coming from an unlettered youth who had had little opportunity in or out of prison to improve his mind.

In addition, Mr. Conrad minimizes the part the NAACP played in the Scottsboro defense in favor of the International Labor Defense. I do not know the background of all the bickering that went on in connection with the defense in the Scottsboro case, but I do not believe that the NAACP with other groups made a "deal" with the state of Alabama, as Patterson states.

"Scottsboro Boy" recounts, often in unbelievably crude details, the horrors of life in two Southern camps. The miserable treatment of prisoners in these camps has received considerable attention, but nowhere is there described in such detail, I think, the actual day-to-day life of these men.

Patterson, evidently the most aggressive of the nine boys, was determined that his spirit would not be broken and somehow he succeeded often in matching wits with his guards and fellow prisoners. In the early years of his imprisonment, he was more fortunate than many of his fellow prisoners, because he received considerable money from those who had followed the case and sympathized deeply with him. In fact, for a time, he ran a sort of private prison commissary, supplying other prisoners with cigarettes and other supplies.

Money bought almost everything except freedom — including women. For five dollars a guard would procure a woman prisoner for Patterson and he boasts that at times he spent as much as fifteen dollars a day in this fashion. I wondered as I read how those who sent him this money would react to this knowledge of how much of their donations was used.

The law of survival in these prison camps, according to Patterson, meant a constant readiness to fight — even to kill. Antagonisms between the prisoners were great and in one of the camps the high percentage of homosexuality meant constant bickering and violence. One of the most sordid sections of the book tells how Patterson himself for a time entered into this universal prison pattern.

"Scottsboro Boy" does not make pleasant reading, but it uncovers many abuses which cannot be ignored.

"Scottsboro Boy" by Haywood Patterson and Earl Conrad; Doubleday and Co., Inc.; New York 20, N. Y.; 1950; $3.00

'Rotten Demagoguery' In Book Promotion

Hodding Carter In The Delta Democrat-Times

SINCE the book and magazine publishing businesses are highly competitive affairs, it may sometimes be necessary for publishers to think up an odorous trick or two or three to sell their wares. That is the most charitable explanation for the promotion of a book, "Scottsboro Boy," and its Omnibook condensation . . .

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LOOKS AT BOOKS

Haywood Patterson's Own 'Scottsboro Boys' Story

Reviewed by HAZEL G. CURTIS

The saying goes that every man has one story to tell. It is criminal, however, that any man should have such a story as has Haywood Patterson, "Scottsboro Boy." The grisly epic of nine youths who over seventeen years ago were tortured at Alabama racial prejudice stakes up to the point of burning, becoming known as the "Scottsboro Boys," is well known to all Negroes.

Individual and personal st of these boys after they were railroaded into prison on the word of two white women, however, have been withheld until now when in his own words Patterson's revelation explodes for the public like an atom bomb. He has been aided by Earl Conrad who has done other works on the Negro.

Patterson's account of his life in prison, while it is also their story, is peculiarly his own, because he seems to have encountered most of the injustice, cruelty and inhumanity resulting from the Southern system for dealing with color.

Of the nine, he is the only one never paroled or pardoned. Finally, after four trials, resulting in sentences ranging from death to seventy-five years in prison and almost eighteen years of prison torture, Patterson decided "I make my own pardon."

The account of his escape, on the second try in July, 1948, is harrowing and gripping and the reader cannot help but rejoice that any human being should escape the conditions Patterson describes as his life in Alabama prisons.

Certainly, even more so, when the reader has seen page by page how an inexperienced 18-year-old boy is changed by privation and cruelty into a calloused degenerate. (The average age of the nine when arrested was sixteen.) His story recalls that of Hugo's Jean Valjean in "Les Miserables," but the shame of it that it should be laid in a section of present day America as contrasted with nineteenth century France. Patterson aptly describes the man he became when he says:

* * *

"I WAS AS MEAN as society can make a man. I was as low as they come. I would do anything dangerous — at Atmore (prison) where I had to fight to live."

In describing Kilby Prison near Montgomery and Atmore reform prison, known to the inmates as "Murderers' Home," Patterson exposes unbelievably revolting conditions. He tells in detail the inhuman brutality against Negro prisoners of condonation by officials of sexual perversions, bestiality killings. It is a blood-drenched picture from beginning to end.

Rackets operated within the prisons for the profit of guards and favored prisoners are described in detail. Medical attention, or what ridiculously passed for medical attention (one doctor for 1,700 men) is described. Patterson says prescriptions for Negroes at Atmore often were as follows: "This man needs to be whipped. That make him well."

* * *

AS CONTRASTED WITH his life in prison, Patterson remembers gratefully the intervention and interest of friends throughout this country and in other countries when they learned of the plight of the Scottsboro Boys. He tells of the International Labor Defense, its Samuel Leibowitz, and all the groups that rallied to aid them and fight the death penalties originally imposed by the State of Alabama.

Judge Horton, who wrote a scathing opinion granting a new trial, he remembers as the only note of justice from an Alabamian. Judge Horton, he observes, was defeated at the next election while Tom Knight, the attorney general who prosecuted them became Lieutenant-Governor.

In spite of the torture, the life of complete degradation for seventeen years, Patterson has retained racial dignity, a wry sense of humor and a philosophic view of his sufferings which is rather astounding. He says:

"CERTAINLY AFTER OUR case people said more about lynching, the poll tax, and black man's rights." Through his book Patterson asks nothing

Photos by Lotte Jacobi

'Scottsboro Boy'—Earl Conrad, left, well-known author, and Haywood Patterson, right, collaborated to produce the sensational new book, "Scottsboro Boy," the story of Patterson, the last of the participants in the famed Scottsboro case to get out of prison.

d to a man who lost it
manhood to
no fault of his own.
through no
Every
and take me." Every
it can right a vicious wrong. chapter of this case and this
endured will make its own appeal to society to show him the law or freedom through no
out the narration of what he has pleaded manhood to a man who lost it
"I lay out here in the North in my little room," he says, "waiting for the restoration of

Haywood Patterson, a familiar name to all who can remember back to 1931 and the Scottsboro case, has written a book. Patterson, who recently escaped from a 99-year stretch in Alabama's Kilby Prison, calls it "Scottsboro Boy." It will be published by Doubleday on April 20.

BOOKS AND THINGS

By LEWIS GANNETT

SCOTTSBORO BOY. By Haywood Patterson and Earl Conrad. Doubleday. 309 pages. $3.

SACCO and Vanzetti were electrocuted in 1927, after seven years of waiting in prison for a final decision on their case, but perhaps they had it better than Haywood Patterson, the "Scottsboro Boy" who, with Earl Conrad's aid, here tells his story.

Tried Four Times, Sentenced to Death Three

Haywood Patterson was arrested and jailed in Scottsboro, Ala., in March, 1931; he was convicted and sentenced to be electrocuted in April; eighteen months later the United States Supreme Court reversed the conviction because Patterson and his fellow-defendants had not had benefit of counsel. Patterson was tried again in March - April, 1933, again convicted, and again sentenced to death, but after two months' meditation the judge set aside the conviction on the ground that the evidence was unbelievable. Patterson was tried a third time, and a third time sentenced to death in November-December, 1933, and fourteen months later the United States Supreme Court again reversed his conviction, this time because Negroes had been excluded from the jury panels. Patterson underwent a fourth trial in January, 1936, and was sentenced to seventy-five years' imprisonment. He had then been in jail almost four years; he served twelve and a half years more in the living hells of Alabama prisons, then escaped. That was two years ago. He is still living underground, somewhere in the North.

Haywood Patterson

"Scottsboro" was a big story in 1931-1936. Most of us sort of forgot about it after 1937, when four of the nine black boys originally arrested were released. The war intervened. Four more of the "boys" (they are grown men now) were paroled 1944—though one of them was later returned to jail, and is still there, for "violation of parole" (driving a car without a license)—and another in 1947. Haywood Patterson was never paroled. He was the tough one. He fought his way through a series of jails, and he made his own escape.

It is a grim story he tells, all the way from the fight on the freight train that preceded his arrest, through the four trials, and his lurid experiences in the Alabama prisons. Mr. Conrad, serving as "ghost-writer" or co-author for him, puts it into a simple colloquial-speech form which probably gives the spirit of Patterson's experience better than conventional English would. (A series of documentary appendices, including the appalling full text of Judge Horton's decision throwing out the evidence, backs up the colloquial story.)

Haywood Patterson doesn't pretend that he was a good boy. He hated chaplains. "The more talk I heard about God," he says, "the more I kept seeing the freckles in the face of old Judge Callahan." The only use he had for a Bible was to hide his money. He tells how he carried a knife ("A knife meant more to me than religion. I had faith in my knife. It saved me many times.") and how a fellow-convict with a better knife punctured his lung. He tells how, at Atmore State Prison Farm, he picked up the prison pattern of homosexuality. He tells how he was lashed for carrying a knife—so badly that he worked in the fields with his pants open in back so his clothes wouldn't rub the raw flesh; how he was dosed with castor oil, and kept in solitary two months.

He tells, too, of his escape. He lived on stolen watermelons: "White folks been making fun of Negroes and watermelon for a long time," he says, "but melon must have saved many a slave's life when they ran North a long time ago." Things didn't seem to Haywood Patterson to have changed much since slave days.

What Makes Communists

The story rings true and burns. One wonders when Alabama will have a governor brave enough to reread Judge Horton's decision, overruling the verdict in his own court, and give the last of the Scottsboro boys a full pardon.

One much-discussed aspect of the Scottsboro case this book slurs. Communists were the first to go to the defense of the Scottsboro boys, but they did not carry the whole load; later, their propagandist zeal prejudiced the case. Money raised for the defense seems to have been diverted into other channels. All that, of course, has nothing to do with the basic record. The kind of treatment Patterson received does more to make Communists than all the propaganda in the Moscow archives. At least, in America, Patterson's story could be and was told. His book can be printed here. It isn't that way everywhere.

SCOTTSBORO BOY 'EXPOSES' ALABAMA PEN CRUELTIES

SCOTTSBORO BOY. By Haywood Patterson and Earl Conrad. Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N. Y. $3

If this book is to serve any good purpose it should be read by those in position to do something about it, otherwise it is apt to fall into the category of ultra-sensational dramatics wherein humanity sinks to the depths of depravity.

It is a broadside picture of prison life at its worst. It is as exacting as lightning and supercharged with dynamite.

If Patterson and Conrad are unable to back up the accusations of corruption, torture, murder and filth which they lay at the door of the prison system in Alabama, they are wide open for legal attacks. The book does not deal in generalities. It cites cases, calls names and gives approximate times.

Haywood Patterson, one of the Scottsboro boys, tells the story. It is written by Earl Conrad, editor of Negro papers. After serving 17 years, Patterson escaped from Kilby prison July 17, 1948, and has been in hiding since. He recites the known legal turns in the infamous Scottsboro case, recounts the mob scenes, trials, threats and work of the various organizations in behalf of his and the freedom of eight others arrested in the freight train case.

But these events are handled as swiftly as his trials. They are almost lost in the tale of horror that follows. And if Patterson's story is true then the State of Alabama should start doing something besides beating political drums and get down to scrubbing prison floors. Patterson has surely splattered blood and misery on the bars and walls of Kilby and on the fields of Atmore.

Patterson pulls no punches. Atmore he brands "Murderers' Home." Serving a 75-year sentence he charges that prison bosses and guards were out to have him murdered. ". . . Men went to prison for murder, they were apt to be crazy when they did. The fact that they would go on murdering like they did at Atmore proved they were crazy . . . so you take crazy murderers and put them in with sane men . . . and officials helping black boys kill each other off, and you get Murderers' Home. That's why I became tough and mean. . . . Or I'd have been killed." He reveals plots to kill him and of his narrow escapes.

He charges rackets in perversion and prostitution, intoxicants of all kinds and dope. ". . . Whites drank shoe polish, shellacs . . . they took anything that would make them feel different. . . . They fell far lower than us blacks at Atmore. . . . It wasn't really that the men sank. They were pushed down; all of us, white and black. You put men in a sewer, they will get muck on them."

One prisoner had a racket of making knives. ". . . I'd have to have a good knife on me . . . everybody did. . . . Guards were always ready to see two black boys fight each other . . . the fights were dirty, brutal things because guys were out to draw blood."

One guard (he names him) ". . . got something out of putting people into pain . . . I saw guys, hard up for money, lay down under the leather. When that guard got through with them they were all torn up . . ."

He describes the beating of a man in a gravel pit where the prisoner's neck was locked in a car window and he was clubbed on the head and lashed from behind. He says the only law at Atmore was leather. He charges that when the lash was abolished the beatings continued, often with clubs.

He tells of his own lashings with hatred and bitterness. ". . . I was in pitiful shape for sometime . . . I wanted nothing . . . just only to die." That was at Atmore. He says he was whipped at Kilby by a guard he names who ". . . had been waiting for years for the chance to lay leather on me . . . the first lash . . . lifted me right off the floor . . . I was no good afterwards that, could barely get up."

In conclusion he says: "Tween 1940 and 1949. I guess my people gained more off the Scottsboro case than any of us boys did. It led to putting Negroes on juries in the South. . . . Our case opened up a lot of politics in the country. . . . I think of my people down South. Then I want to go there, be among them, live there. . . . The people must bring an end to the Scottsboro case . . . they must say whether I suffered

Samuel Leibowitz with Haywood Patterson in 1933.

The Lower Depths

SCOTTSBORO BOY. By Haywood Patterson and Earl Conrad. 309 pp. New York: Doubleday & Co. $3.

By JOHN N. POPHAM

THIS is the personal story of Haywood Patterson, one of nine Negro youths known throughout the world in the Nineteen Thirties as the "Scottsboro Boys." It is a piece of primitive writing and thinking based on an accumulation of so much evil among men that one finishes it with a kind of reader's trauma.

The nine were accused of raping two white women while all were hoboes on a freight train through Alabama, near the town of Scottsboro. There followed six years of courtroom skirmishes which won international attention because the defendants were convicted time and time again despite the fact that the women admittedly were moral tramps, that one of them recanted her story and that there was virtually no corroboration of testimony.

Finally, the rape charges were dropped against five of the defendants and the others received long jail terms, with a reported "understanding" that they would soon be freed as part of a "deal" that was never consummated. Patterson was given seventy-five years' imprisonment, but in July, 1948, he escaped from Kilby Prison in Alabama and found a hit-and-run refuge in the North. He has written from a hideout in an unidentified city.

It is not a nice story. It is a monolith of human degradation. His report of the sex life of prison inmates and the beatings administered by prison guards is sickening.

HIS thought-processes are extremely one-sided, and as the years of injustice roll by he adopts completely the hardened criminal's attitude that only he can really understand the maddening imbalance of the scales. The reader soon begs for some touch of logic in Patterson's depiction of human beings, no matter what their depravity.

Even if you divide Patterson's story by two, you still come up with a revolting record of man's inhumanity to man and a tale of "les miserables" that is a black mark on democracy's pages. And certainly Patterson will always have the final word when he asks again and again, "What kind of a society did this to me?"

One should not fail to mention that the book includes the magnificent opinion that Circuit Judge James E. Horton of Alabama wrote when he granted a motion for a new trial for Patterson; it cost him his judgeship in the next election. It is a splendid counterpoise to any satiety of cruelty and lust caused by Patterson's story. It keeps reminding you that Patterson is not the one to blame for anything that happened.

They Say It's 'Banned' In Alabama

SCOTTSBORO BOY by Haywood Patterson and Earl Conrad, Doubleday & Company, Inc., Garden City, N. Y., 1950; 309 pages with appendix and time table of events—$3.

It is not the purpose of this reviewer to take sides or enter into controversy in regard to this book. That it will be just another part of the invective leaped upon the State by Northerners is true, but it cannot be ignored in Alabama, for otherwise the vituperation in other sections of the country would be that much more bitter. Already it is being heralded throughout the country as "banned in Alabama," which is not so.

This is to be a review, not a criticism, or an opinion. The book was sent to this reviewer by the publishers. So we will tell you about it. It is a shocking story told in the first person by one of the Scottsboro boys, Haywood Patterson, who escaped Kilby Prison, and is now living somewhere in the North. It is his story of what happened on a freight train on March 27, 1931; of his subsequent arrest for rape; his years in Alabama's prisons; and his escape in 1948.

The book is horrible in its detail of revolting conditions experienced by Patterson. It is degrading, filthy in language, obscene. Whether it is truth or untruth; whether partly true and partly untrue, it is not for this reviewer to say. It tells of the fight on the freight train between nine Negroes and the white boys, who were thrown off, and the charges by two white girl tramps which led to a long series of court fights which cost the State of Alabama plenty of money.

And then comes Patterson's description of his life in Atmore and Kilby, where prisoners lived by the jungle law of survival. In simple but powerful words it tells an incredible story. It names names, many of whom are prominent in Alabama, in politics, in church, in state, in society; and it names many names not so honorable.

The book includes such names as (and I quote from the book) Governor Bibb Graves, Governor B. M. Miller, Governor Chauncey Sparks, Governor Jim Folsom, Attorney General Tom Knight, and such names as Hamp Draper, Frank Boswell, E. A. Hawkins, Edgar Blalock, Melvin Hutson, T. S. Lawson, H. G. Bailey, Judge Callahan, J. Street Sandlin, J. S. Benson, Sheriff Warren, Stephen Roddy, Milo Moody, Dick Barnes.

Others included in the book are: L. J. Burrs, Captain Landers, Lige Lambert, Dr. Hodges, Dr. Henry E. Edmonds, Frank Kelly, Will O'Haggerty, Dr. Allen Knight, S. W. Hixon, Si Gumpert, Lee Hist, Arthur Hueston, Deputy Warden Carl Williams, Deputy Warden Pitts Williams, Dr. Atwater, Superintendent Conroy, Dr. Harrison. Then there is reference to York, Hawks, Pickens, Hendricks, Quarles, Dobbs, Watkins, Ogilvie, Hibbert, Manley, Pratt, Beckwith, Jooms, Bournes, Scopes, Catt, Clandish, and many, many others.

The Scottsboro case caused a sensation for many years. It is a pity it cannot be forgotten, but the book is published, a revival of something it would be better for the country to forget. The author wrote a book called INSIDE JIM CROW AMERICA once upon a time. Now he has found Haywood Patterson and has rekindled an old flame. Keep it away from the children.

—R. G.

Scottsboro Boy's Book Is Causing Trouble in 'Bama

MONTGOMERY, Ala.—(ANP)—Sale of "Scottsboro Boy," by Haywood Patterson, one of the famed Scottsboro boys, has caused booksellers and customers much trouble in the State of Alabama since the book's publication.

It seems that the demand for the book is much greater than the supply. Everybody wants to read the book, and everybody wants to sell it, but nobody wants to take a chance on being responsible for its contents.

First, let's take the publisher, Doubleday and Company of New York. This firm fears libel suits more than anything else. To avoid such an unpleasant event, the firm is asking book stores in Alabama to sign a non-liability contract before selling them copies.

Under this plan the publisher would not be subject to any liability in connection with the book. Doubleday has no restriction on the sale of "Scottsboro Boy" in other states.

Second, book stores want copies of the book, but not with the Doubleday restrictions. In fact they are getting them without buying them from the company . . . and the sale is greater than the supply.

Everybody seems to want to read the book. Even rental libraries have the book here in Montgomery.

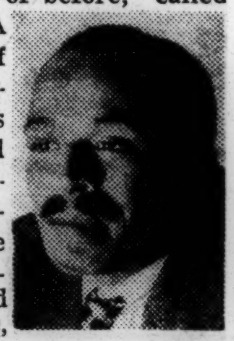
"Scottsboro Boy" tells the story of Patterson's life in an Alabama prison.

Book Review

"Scottsboro Boy, by Haywood Patterson and Earl Conrad. Doubleday & Co., 14 W. 49th. St., New York. 309 pp. $3.00

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

About this time nineteen years ago the eyes of the whole western world were turned toward a place, unheard of before, called Scottsboro. A passion play of great social significance was being enacted there. The principal characters were nine ignorant colored boys and a stock figure, long known to fact and fiction as Southern Justice.



J. S. Redding

The story they enacted at Scottsboro was gross, sordid, brutal and so banal that only the circumstantial interference of an organization ambitious for publicity brought it to the attention of the world.

Numerous Trials

For months the drama unfolded before the public gaze and even the most ignorant were aware that nine colored boys, ranging in age from thirteen to twenty, were accused of raping two hoboing white women of easy virtue on a freight train.

There was trial after trial and retrial, conviction after conviction. Each trial revealed more and more judicial incompetence, racial hate, chicanery. and more of the social seriousness of the psychic trauma that has made the South and the Southern mind the despair of the Christian world.

Eventually, America lost interest. Ruby Bates, having repudiated her testimony against the Scottsboro boys, died. Judge Horton died, having blighted his career with judicial fairness.

H. G. Bailey, the prosecutor, died; Milo Moody passed on: Victoria Price sank again into limbo. America forgot. The dust jackets of **Scottsboro Boy** says America wanted to forget.

Perhaps it did. It forgot so completely that in 1948 the escape of Haywood Patterson from the infamous Kilby Prison struck no chord of memory. Patterson was the only one of the nine boys never pardoned or paroled.

Three times he had been sentenced to death, and three times the world had forced a new trial. When finally he was sentenced to seventy-five years imprisonment, the world accepted the compromise and then forgot him. He had been in prison seventeen years when he escaped.

Ugly Story

The story Patterson tells (with the help of Earl Conrad) of those prison years is ugly almost beyond belief. Indeed, thousands in the South will deny it, damn it as woven of lies, in spite of its documentation. Much of the language is coarse and ugly, even for these days when realism is a vogue. The exposure of the human degradation, the moral and spiritual debasement of prison life will turn more than one strong stomach.

"At night that went on in every cell. It made me think how any person who thinks he knows all the answers, he's a fool.... I never knew 'till then a man could use another man and get a thrill out of it. I didn't much want to know it even after I learned.

"The prison authorities, they were for it. It helped them to control the men. Especially the tough ones they called devils. They believed that if a devil had a gal-boy he would be quiet.

"He would be a good worker and he wouldn't kill guards and prisoners and try to escape. He would be like a settled married man.... The guards, they even matched up gal-boys with wolves. They liked to watch these goings on."

That was at Atmore State Prison Farm. At Kilby Prison, it was worse, much worse. Haywood Patterson learned it all, had a part in it all. But his big point is that he did not want to have a part in it; that he was forced into it in order to live at all; that the system created by the American society forced him into it.

"All around me I saw men fall away from being decent human beings. They lost control of themselves... Anybody who thinks men and women are sent into Alabama prisons to get reformed, they don't know what's going on in the country.

"I saw men come in with good minds and watched them fade off.... In nearly eighteen years in Alabama prisons, at the main prisons, in the town and county jails, on the farms, I never saw one man get reformed."

Scottsboro Boy is both an indictment and a plea. It indicts the South for its ancient evils. It pleads for a chance for Haywood Patterson to walk freely among free men.

(Since this review was written—Haywood Patterson has been given his freedom by a Federal court judge in Detroit. who refused to send him back to Alabama to finish serving a 75-year term.)

Publisher Tries To Pass The Buck To Local Book Stores On 'Scottsboro Boy'

By JOE AZBELL
Staff Writer, The Advertiser

"SCOTTSBORO BOY"—the book that dramatizes the shame of Alabama prisons—continues to vex Montgomery booksellers although the publishers claim to have lifted the "ban" on the book.

Joe Azbell

A graphic story on the prison life of Haywood Patterson, one of the "Scottsboro Boys," the book is co-authored by Patterson and Earl Conrad, author of "Jim Crow America."

Actually the "ban" was as false as a set of grandpa's teeth because Alabama has no legal machinery to ban a book.

But the publishers, Doubleday & Co., of New York, aren't giving up on their plans to keep the book out of this state if they have to be responsible for it. Doubleday evidently fears libel suits.

The latest snag handed out by the publishing house came in reply to orders for large numbers of copies of the book for Montgomery booksellers.

Doubleday's letter is frank and above the counter. It pulls no punches.

It states that only under a non-liability contract will the firm fill any orders for "Scottsboro Boy" in Montgomery.

The non-liability contract sent to at least three Montgomery booksellers states:

"We have your order for 'Scottsboro Boy' which we will be glad to fill under the following conditions.

"1. Doubleday & Co., Inc., makes no representations or warranties, expressed or implied, with respect to the subject matter of 'Scottsboro Boy.'

"2. Any liability which may be imposed against you due to possession of, sale of, or advertising of the book shall be for your own account, and you will not look to Doubleday & Co. for any indemnity whatsoever.

"If this understanding is satisfactory, sign and return the enclosed copy of this letter. Shipment will be made upon receiving same."

IT'S OBVIOUS from this letter that Doubleday is worried about the possibilities of libel suits if the book is distributed in this state. It was probably the fear of a libel suit that the book originally was "banned" in Alabama by the publishers.

BUT DESPITE the difficulties, two out of seven book stores already have copies of "Scottsboro Boy," either for sale or for rent through lending libraries.

And more than 150 copies of Omnibook Magazine, which contains a condensation of "Scottsboro Boy" in the current issue have already been sold in this area. Leon Levin, of the Montgomery News Co., said he is ordering 150 more copies and doubts if this will be enough to fill the demands. "They just melted off the stands," he said.

The book stores that have the regular books might be said to be bootlegging them as they were not bought directly from the publishers.

But as for the non-liability contracts, two out of the three booksellers who received copies here, do not intend to sign them—despite public demands for the book. It is not certain yet what action will be taken by the third bookseller.

EUGENE NEELEY, of Neeley's Book Store, said: "This is the first time in the history of my dealings in the book business that I have ever received a letter like this. I do not intend to sign it. I don't want and don't need this book so badly as to take complete responsibility for every word in it."

Just a few doors down the street at A. Nachman's Book Store, Mrs. Jane Sheehan, manager, said the store already has sold about 25 copies, has six copies for sale at the present, and has six more in the rental library.

The book store, part of a nationwide chain, received its books through a central warehouse.

However, the store also received a non-liability letter in reply to its recent order of books from Doubleday.

Mrs. Sheehan said she is sending the non-liability letter to central purchasing offices in Seattle for action. She, too, said this is the first non-liability letter she has ever received from a publisher.

In the meantime, she intends to continue to sell the books which she has in stock.

Mrs. Amy Mathis, proprietor of Amy's Book Store, said she has received a copy of the non-liability but she is not going to sign it.

She already has the book in her rental library, supplied by a national lending library firm. She said she doesn't want to take complete liability by ordering the books from Doubleday under the contract terms.

Officials of the Little Book Store, Montgomery Fair Book Store, and Paul Sanderson's Book Store, said they have not received replies to their recent orders for the book.

Originally they were told that their first orders could not be filled because the book was "banned," but since the "ban" was a phoney, they have had no other communications from the publishers.

WHILE THE PUBLISHERS are outlining tooth and toenail conditions for filling orders for the book in Alabama, Mrs. Sheehan said some reports on the book are beginning to come in.

"It's the general opinion that the book is rough and shocking. Some get mad when they read it. Others say it is true and highlights conditions that they know exist," she said.

She added: "I haven't heard anyone say one way or the other whether they think it should or should not be distributed in Alabama."

All of the book stores contacted said that they have large numbers of orders for the book.

But many of the orders might go unfilled as there seems to be some doubt whether Montgomery will get any copies of the book other than bootlegged ones. At least this appears to be the case as long as Doubleday continues to sell the book only under the non-liability contract.

Doubleday Could Help

The Advertiser is somewhat piqued with Doubleday & Co., the publishers of "Scottsboro Boy."

Doubleday is responsible for circulation of the canard that the book was "banned" in Alabama. Doubleday didn't tell the truth in saying that.

The firm put that out before any copies were sold in Alabama. No copy or censor could have read it. As far as we know, the first mention of the book was on this page, the editor having come by an advance copy quite by accident.

But further than that, there is no agency and no machinery whatsoever for banning a book in Alabama. Doubleday was confusing Alabama with Boston.

By phone calls and letters to Doubleday officials in New York, Mr. Rankin relayed all of this and asked how come. All the responsible Doubleday officials had either caught the Hartford & New Haven for a long weekend, or the ones on deck had marbles in their mouth and less in their heads. In any event, we were never able to get any direct answers to anything.

The truth of the matter now emerges in the accompanying piece by Mr. Azbell. The book either lies on, or tells the truth about, numerous Alabama prison officials, and in either case the publisher is beckoning to libel suits.

Therefore, not actual, but a publisher's fear of libel action is the reason that local book emporiums can't get the book through the usual channels. The publisher doesn't want any libel suits tried before an Alabama jury.

Which brings us to an intriguing point. Despite Doubleday's precautions, the book has been reviewed and sold here. If there should be a suit, Doubleday's star defense witness, Haywood Patterson, would be anywhere but in an Alabama courtroom.

Patterson has written the whole of "Scottsboro Boy" about nothing but his days in Alabama courtrooms and prisons. He wrote the book somewhere in the East as a fugitive since his escape in 1948 from Kilby Prison.

So far as we know, no Alabama official has bestirred himself to track Patterson down and extradite him to complete his sentence. Leave him be, seems to be the attitude.

But should Doubleday have a suit here it would need Patterson as a witness to testify to the truth of his charges. No doubt Patterson would tell Doubleday that one trip to Alabama was enough.

We wonder if Doubleday would then be tempted to give the authorities some leads on the probable place where Patterson, the reluctant witness, is receiving his "Scottsboro Boy" royalty checks. Clearing house records on the canceled checks would be a valuable lead.

Laborious Process

Encouraging reports on European recovery are coming in—boosts in production and other factors. There are also reports showing that a tremendous amount of actual physical wartime damage remains to be repaired.

We read the other day that thanks to war. France and Poland were both on a vast reconstruction program, Warsaw the winning side in the last war. If anhas already made good a quarter of its other should come, we could exwartime damage. Years of toil remain atomic bombs and rockets to bring before the city will be rebuilt. In France, station for winner and loser alike on the port of Le Havre has done even bet-a scale hitherto unapproached. ter—60 pct. reconstructed.

Such ruinous losses are depressing, yet

Human Existence at Its Lowest

A Scottsboro Fugitive Tells Sickening Story

By Alfred Steinberg

SCOTTSBORO BOY. By Haywood Patterson and Earl Conrad. Doubleday. 309 pp. $3.

ON A DIM March day back in 1931, nine Negroes chased some white boys from a slow-moving freight train in Alabama. The station ahead was notified, 75 armed men hauled the Negroes from the train and took them to Scottsboro, where they were charged with having raped two white girls on the train.

PATTERSON

The scene was thus set for an ordinary sort of trial, especially ordinary since the two girls were prostitutes of a semiprofessional status. The nine defendants included one who was almost blind, another painfully infected with both gonorrhea and syphilis and two children, aged 13 and 14. This was the Scottsboro Case.

Out of these uninspiring facts there emerged bitter sectional antagonisms, widespread international publicity, protest parades numbering as high as 300,000 marchers and two important United States Supreme Court decisions—one of which ordered the use of Negroes on jury panels.

Cleared by Girl

THE innocence of the defendants is well established today, especially since Ruby Bates, one of the two girls involved, later confessed that the crime never occurred and led a delegation of petitioners to the White House to ask presidential clemency for "the Scottsboro Boys." But at that time, to many Southerners, the good name of Alabama was somehow at stake, and the many attempts to free the boys became the machinations of Northerners, of "Jew money" from New York and of radicals.

Liberals, such as the NAACP and the American Civil Liberties Union, who tried to argue the case on its merits, were outnumbered by energetic Communists who recognized a golden opportunity to capitalize on Negro unrest and stir up class hatred. They sent threatening notes to the judges and the Governor and propagandized that "this was a frameup by the oppressors of the lowest of the working classes." The result was the submergence of the case itself in a bitter battle of prejudice.

"Scottsboro Boy," as the name implies, is the story of one of the defendants, whose freight car ride on March 25, 1931, led to four trials but only three successful appeals. To Haywood Patterson, almost illiterate, though the possessor of a fine mind and of undaunted courage, the original trial was a vague affair, and the subsequent ones were brief, puzzling interludes during which he was whisked from jail and whisked back again.

At his last trial, he was sentenced to 75 years in prison. After the international hullabaloo died away and the spectators moved on to new sensations, the Governor of Alabama reneged on his private agreement to let the last of the defendants leave jail quietly in order to save face for his State. And Haywood Patterson became a forgotten man.

Indelible Picture

THIS book is about the 17 years Haywood Patterson spent in Alabama jails and prison farms. As a recital of those years, it becomes an important sociological study. For Patterson has omitted nothing.

The prison depravity he has described with sometimes nauseating effect—the squalid conditions, the intermingling of the syphilitic and the insane with the other prisoners; the high murder rate—prisoners killing each other and guards, and guards killing prisoners; the toadying of many Negro prisoners and their stool-pigeoning for favors from white guards; the graft between the prison and the outside world, and the perverted sex life of the prisoners.

This is human existence at the lowest possible level. Few readers will ever be able to erase from their minds Patterson's raw account of the continuous effort of older prisoners to break the younger criminals and force them to become gal-boys, as Pattersor calls them.

Now in Hiding

ALL the other Scottsboro boys were eventually pardoned. Haywood Patterson finally escaped in 1948, after an earlier unsuccessful break. Today he is hiding somewhere in the North, being subject to extradition should he be found. That he has emerged from his experience with humor, maturity and personal insight is almost incredible.

With the facts now available through Haywood Patterson's story, Alabama will be derelict in its duty should it do nothing about its prisons. Alabama will also be derelict if it does not pardon Haywood Patterson.

"Scottsboro Boy" is definitely not hammock reading. Coauthored by Earl Conrad, a fine writer, its tragedy will wring your heart. It will leave you with a deep sense of personal shame if you are at all concerned with the basic American concepts of fair play and justice.

Looking At The South

Since the book and publishing businesses are highly competitive affairs, it may sometimes be necessary for publishers to think up an odorous trick or two or three to sell their wares. That is the most charitable explanation for the promotion of a book, "Scottsboro Boy", and its Omnibook condensation.

The book itself is a collaboration between an editor of a Northern Negro newspaper and Haywood Patterson, the principal defendant in the case of a group of young Negroes accused and found guilty in Alabama 19 years ago of criminally assaulting two white girl tramps on a freight car.

Patterson escaped from an Alabama prison penal farm about two years ago after some 17 years imprisonment and presumably has been in the safekeeping of friends somewhere in the East since his getaway. The other defendants were paroled at various times during the intervening years, the last one getting his freedom only a few days ago. The preponderant weight of evidence indicates that these Negroes were innocent and that they were the victims of violent prejudice.

But this unpleasant truth is no vindication either for the book itself or for the kind of publicity in which its publishers, Doubleday and Doran, and the publishers of its condensation have indulged. This is, of course, a mighty wicked and reactionary thing to say because those distant book reviewers who are drooling over the book will at once label such sentiments as positively Klannish.

Nevertheless, such a statement is also the truth. Undoubtedly, the soul of Haywood Patterson has been understandably warped by 19 years of manifestly unjust imprisonment; and if only one-tenth of his story is true, no Southerner can defend the brutal practices of the Alabama penal system which it depicts, or his trial and sentencing. Even so, his autobiography is a uselessly foul and nauseous portrayal of human degeneration, obviously deliberately calculated to translate filth into a best seller. Perhaps Patterson cannot see the difference between factual reporting and putridity but his collaborator and his publishers could.

But what is even more significant is that the book is a loudspeaker for the party liners; tellingly Patterson and Conrad credit only the International Labor Defense with coming to the aid of the Scottsboro boys. In case you have forgotten, the ILD was a completely Communistic-dominated organization. And its early and provocative interference in the Scottsboro case ended what little hope the defendants might have had for acquittal. The authority for that statement is none other than Walter White, director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, whose long efforts for the defense are completely disregarded in this curious book. Surely there is more than coincidence in this book's adulation of the party's representatives and its neglect of a Negro organization which, however it may be criticized in the South for its uncompromising militancy, is certainly not Communistic.

So much for the book itself. Before it appeared on the bookstands, I received a letter from the publicity director of Omnibook magazine, announcing that the condensation would shortly appear in that magazine and confiding that the book's publishers were not sending any copies to Alabama or Mississippi. The letter added with thinly disguised hopefulness that even Omnibook itself might be barred in the South (oh joy, oh free advertising, oh mounting sales!) and commented briefly "not that we care". I hadn't believed that a responsible publisher would deliberately withhold a book from two states for a sales come-on. A book dealer in Greenville ordered three copies as a test case. The publishers answered that they would forward the copies only if the dealer would agree to indemnify them against lawsuits. This was the first such stipulation from a publisher in the dealer's experience.

This story is proof positive that rotten demagoguery exists elsewhere than in politics. It is cheap advertising, a cheap taking advantage of a tragic miscarriage of justice which no thinking Southerner defends today. And worse is its evidence that even the smart boys can and sometimes do swallow the party hook, line and sinker.

AFRO Short Stories to Be Published in Anthology

BALTIMORE

Nick Aaron Ford and H. L. Faggett, professors of English at Morgan State College, have collaborated in the editing of an anthology of short stories by colored authors, the first of its kind ever to be published.

The forthcoming book, entitled "Best Short Stories by AFRO-AMERICAN writers," is scheduled to be released by the Meador Press, Boston, early next month.

The 40 stories—the most interesting, the most dramatic, and the most significant written by colored authors between 1925 and 1950 were selected from approximately 1000 such stories read and criticized by the Morgan professors.

Various Categories

They are grouped under the following categories: human relations, crime and punishment, loyalty and patriotism, love and romance, sunshine and shadow.

Dr. Ford, who is head of the English department at Morgan, in discussing the aims of the book, said,

"We undertook this task with the sense of performing a private duty and a public service.

"We were fed up with the continual publication of stories by white authors which portray colored characters as contented slaves, worshipful servants, lazy dreamers, minstrel comics, chicken-stealing roustabouts, superstitious fools and sexual degenerates.

"We believe that such stereotypes have done much harm to the cause of racial equality in America. We want the American those familiar sterotypes.

"We have selected a variety of significant stories which present the darker American laughing weeping, singing, struggling achieving, failing, praying, sinning, hoping and dreaming, of of things his whiter brothers have dared to dream.

"It is our belief that the popularization in fiction of these new types of colored characers will prove both a joy and enlightenment to readers of all races, classes, and creeds."

Sparkling Foreward

A sparkling foreward by Carl Murphy, president of the AFRO-AMERICAN Newspapers, and an absorbing introduction by the two Morgan professors of English, help to make this one of the most significant anthologies of recent years.

Included in the volume are four original stories by Dr. Ford and three by Dr. Faggett.

AFRO Contributors

The two-score contributors include:

Ralph Matthews, Ollie Stewart, James Hill, Edward Worthy Edward Earl Lee, Frank Coggins Arthur Propes, Ed Lacy, Miltor Caddy, S. S. Booker, Adele Hamlin, Vincent Tubbs, Bettye Watson, Mark Hyman; Elizabeth Hood, Donald V. Kane, Douglass Hall, Irene Holliday, Evelyn Scott, Albert Jefferson, Thomas Deckor, Kenneth Pittman, Thomas Taylor and many other well-known AFRO writers.

Looks at Books

New Novel on Africa And Europe at War Is Clever Writing

"Shadows of Ecstasy," by Charles Williams ($3. Pellegrini and Cudahy, N. Y.), is a well-written, arty, completely unbelievable tale about a war between Africa and Europe.

The main characters consist of a Zulu prince, a fabulously rich Jew, some English eccentrics, including all the stock characters: a vicar, a poet, a physician and a skeptic, some beautiful women who are devastatingly practical or whimsical — all of whom lounge around drinking tea while they jest madly about the terrible inpenetrability of life, by jove!

THE BOOK INSISTS that we assume that all Africans are alike and extremely different from everyone else, especially Europeans. Not so long ago, it was generally accepted by the average Britisher that all Africans being different from themselves, were naturally inferior.

But now the fashion has changed. The new line is that all Africans being different, are therefore superior, spiritually and physically, and have a common native full of indescribable mystery and passion for the redemption of mankind.

Such generalizations are vulgar and misleading, setting up one fiction instead of another, creating cliches and cheap sentimentality.

* * *

AN AMHARA of Ethiopia, for instance, who would not mix on terms of equality with a Guraghe (coolie) in his own land, would scarcely have a common ideal with a pagan Bantu—yet all are lumped together here.

There is a delicious—if you like it — sprinkling of philosophy throughout. One man, an extraordinary creature who is about 200 years old, has conquered time and materiality.

The only thing interesting about the book is that apparently, the English fear they are going to lose Africa.

JOSEPHINE SCHUYLER
New York, N. Y.

Books of the Times

By CHARLES POORE

I have written the tale of our life
For a sheltered people's mirth
In jesting guise—but ye are wise,
And ye know what the jest is worth.
—R. Kipling, 1865-1936.

NOT since Finley Peter Dunne wrote his immortal Mr. Dooley sketches has anyone used casual dialogues to discuss issues of the day as effectively as Langston Hughes does in "Simple Speaks His Mind."* Outwardly the book is a collection of entertaining Harlem conversations. Inwardly it is better than a dozen vast and weighty and piously pompous studies in race relations. You learn here at first hand what it really means to be a man of color in the land of the free and the home of the brave—the tragic undertones of laughter.

Langston Hughes

Mr. Hughes' imaginary conversations with Simple began in wartime. Like Mr. Dooley he turned up in a bar, as a fellow who worked on implements of battle. Mr. Hughes asked him precisely what he was making. He said, "Cranks." What kind of cranks? "Cranks! Just cranks!" What did they crank? "I don't know," Simple's original answered. "I don't crank with them cranks. I just make 'em. They don't tell colored folks what cranks crank."

Thereafter, Simple—more formally, Jesse Semple—frequently appeared in Mr. Hughes' column in The Chicago Defender, discussing the peculiarities of white and Negro people, the inequities of love and war and work and justice, the problems of race and politics, the waywardness of women and the rugged hurdles in the way of a man patriotically dedicated to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

"White folks," Simple said in an academy-award bit of understatement, "is the cause of a lot of inconveniences in my life." He found the processes of existence in the same world with them somewhat lacking in the fair principles of play. There were moments when he thought it would be a good plan for Providence to smite them.

"You don't mean *all* white folks, do you?

"No," said Simple. "I hope He lets Mrs. Roosevelt alone."

What He Would Do in Eden

It was suggested to Simple that—to hear him talk—if he had lived in the Garden of Eden the world would still be Paradise, and man would not have fallen into sin.

"Not *this* man," said Simple. "I would have stayed in that garden making grape wine, singing like Crosby, and feeling fine! I would not be scuffling out in this rough world, neither would I be in Harlem. If I was Adam I would just stay in Eden in that garden with no rent to pay, no landladies to dodge, no time clock to punch—and *my* picture on a Sunday school card. I'd be a *real gone guy* even if I didn't have but one name—Adam—and no initials."

At intervals Simple shows his valor by defending people who have even fewer privileges than his own. He takes violent issue, for example, with a woman who wants to call the police to handle a group of youngsters scuffling around a juke box.

"Madame," he tells her, "the cops could only lock them kids up. The cops could not make their papa's kitchenette big enough for them to invite their young friends to come home and have fun in and not have to look for it in the streets. I bet where these boys live there are forty-eleven names in the doorbell, the house is so crowded. Also some roomer has the spare bed."

He is assured that "in a democracy everybody's problems are related, and it's up to us to help solve them." He is told that he himself shows definite prejudices. But he likes to point out that "Columbus didn't start out with Jim Crow around his neck. Neither did the guy who owns this bar. Any foreigner can come here, white, and Jim Crow me, black, from the day he sets foot off the boat. Also overcharge. He *starts* on top of my head so no wonder he gets on top of the world."

"Maybe," Simple moodily suggests, "I ought to go to Europe and come back a foreigner." And the catch there, of course, is pointed out to him at once, inexorably.

He'd Get Around in Rocket Plane

Yet in some ways the future world that Simple foresees is far less bleak than George Orwell's. There will be advantages, for one thing, in having rapid rocket planes available:

"Then, in my rocket I will rock! You won't see me hanging around no Harlem bars no more. Saturday nights I will rock on down to Rio and drink coconut milk and gin with them Brazilian chicks whilst dancing a samba. Sunday morning I will zoom on over to Africa and knock out some palm wine before I come back to Seventh Avenue around noon to eat some of Joyce's chicken and dumplings."

Provided, no doubt, that Joyce is still speaking to Simple. For she is already somewhat impatient with his slowness in divorcing a wife who lives in Baltimore. It's both a matter of money and of principle with Simple. As he tersely puts it: "If I had not paid Five Dollars to marry that woman in the past, I would not have to pay Three Hundred now to get loose."

With opinions on everything under the sun, Simple is told that he ought to have a paper to print them.

"I can talk," Simple says, as people always do, at that point, "but I can't write."

"Then you ought to be an orator."

"Uh-um, I'm scared of the public. My place is at the bar."

"Of justice?"

"Justice don't run no bar."

But on another occasion he felt more confident about the legal prospect. Threatened with the arms of justice, "any old arms are better than none," said Simple. Chided for running around and catching pneumonia, Simple unanswerably observed: "If I had taken care of myself, I would not have these pretty nurses taking care of me."

Finally, in answer to Mr. Hughes' remark that "One regrets, that, after all, life is conflict," Simple retorts: "I leave them regrets to you."

*SIMPLE SPEAKS HIS MIND. By Langston Hughes. 231 pages. Simon & Schuster. Readers' Edition, in paper covers. $1. In hard bindings $2.

E. G., The Church And Slavery

TWO CLERGYMEN have taken issue with The Advertiser on its recent editorial on "Churches Vs. Dancing."

Dr. Gallman, whose letter appears on this page today, rebukes us for our contention that, "Good and evil are not constants," and that the church in order to exert its maximum influence on the moral order must adapt its dogmas to new conditions.

It seems to us that we were on obviously sound ground in saying that conceptions and definitions of what is good and what is evil do change. They change in response to enlightenment and new conditions of life and society.

For example, in the 18th Century, Alabama was a wilderness but sparsely settled. Ordained preachers were very scarce and at the same time it was vital to the development of Alabama that the population increase.

Therefore, couples commonly found themselves intending with no preacher to perform a marriage ceremony. It was thus that they commonly cohabited on an informal basis, raised sturdy families and awaited their first opportunity for a formal marriage ceremony by a peripatetic parson.

That was countenanced in that day, but it is not countenanced today.

★

IN PURITAN DAYS New England communicants were told that it was evil to smile on Sunday or for a man to kiss his wife on Sunday. That is not church doctrine today.

But a much more solid example of how church conceptions of good and evil do change, as they must to survive, is demonstrated in the attitude of the Alabama church towards slavery.

Today slavery is universally regarded as "evil." We take it that Dr. Gallman regards slavery as "evil." But prior to the Civil War the Alabama denominations generally regarded slavery as "good."

For example, the Methodist Conference met in Montgomery in 1860 and resolved that slavery was "wise, humane and righteous." These 90 years later a Methodist conference would resolve, if there were occasion, that slavery is "unwise, inhumane and unrighteous."

A new book, "Slavery in Alabama" (University of Alabama Press), ends its chapter on "The Church And The Slave" with this statement:

"The sincere concern of dedicated churchmen for the welfare of the slave never wavered, not even when the increasing pressure of the abolition movement drove those churchmen to search for and develop, from the very principles of their faith, a defense of the institution under which the slave was held. That defense is part of the larger defense of slavery which slowly but surely evolved in Alabama as it did in every other slave state of the day."

★

NATURALLY Alabama churchmen of that day cited Scripture to their purpose. Dr. F. A. Ross, a brilliant Presbyterian minister of Huntsville, bore down with adroit emphasis on this from Genesis to prove divine sanction of slavery:

"And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren. And he said, Blessed be the Lord God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant."

The author of "Slavery in Alabama" comments:

"The passage could only be interpreted (said Preacher Ross) as a judicial and irrevocable decree of Heaven that this race ought to be enslaved. Surely it was no sin to do what God himself had ordained."

★

THE ADVERTISER can scarcely imagine Dr. Gallman preaching a similar sermon from Genesis. The conceptions of good and evil have changed with respect to slavery.

Further, it would be more evil to enslave the relatively enlightened, educated, self-sustaining Negro of today than it was to enslave the illiterate, helpless savages of a bygone day.

Thus, Good and evil are not constants. Which is all we said in the first place.

SLAVERY IN ALABAMA, by James Benson Sellers (University of Alabama, $4). A study.

Walter White

Capsule Criticism Of Books Liked And Disliked

MAY I GIVE you a few capsule criticisms of some books I have recently enjoyed (or not liked):

KILLERS OF THE DREAM by Lillian Smith, published by W. W. Norton of New York. Read it and rejoice that so able a Southerner has psychoanalyzed the South in all its hopes and fears and frustrations.

SOUTHERN LEGACY by Hodding Carter, published by the Louisiana State University Press. Read it and weep at the passing of a Southern "liberal" who wants the North to "leave us alone" while Carter lectures and writes for magazines at fat fees on how courageous and advanced his thinking is.

THIS I REMEMBER by Eleanor Roosevelt, published by Harper & Bros., New York. A passionate, frank and utterly honest story told with disarming simplicity of what happened behind and in front of the curtain from the day Franklin D. Roosevelt sat down in the Governor's chair in Albany, New York, to the day of his death in Warm Springs, Georgia. She doesn't admit or even appear to be aware of it, but most of the good things were partially or wholly inspired by her. An inexplicable omission, however, is the story of the bloodless revolution so far as the American Negro's status is concerned for which she did so much.

BLACK AND WHITE by Martin Flavin, also published by Harper's. The story of an African journey as perceptive, if not more so, and as beautifully written as Andre Gide's memorable VOYAGE TO THE CONGO. Mr. Flavin traveled through French Equatorial Africa, the Belgian Congo, Uganda, the Rhodesias, Bechuanaland (where Seretse Khama lived until the British Labor Government banished him for marrying a white Englishwoman), the notorious Union of South Africa and neighboring places. He tells what he saw, heard and felt with eloquence and honesty.

BEETLECREEK by William Demby, published by Rinehart of New York. Mr. Demby is the second good GI writer of color to come out of World War II. The first was, of course, William Gardner Smith, who wrote LAST OF THE CONQUERORS. Mr. Demby's story of the evil men's minds can conjure up out of a case of segregation in reverse has the impact of a howitzer.

A FREE AND RESPONSIBLE PRESS, the report of the Commission on Freedom of the Press with a foreword by Robert M. Hutchins. If every American editor, white and Negro, read the analysis of what is wrong and what is right in American journalism and took its recommendations to heart, perhaps the press could regain some of its lost prestige and at the same time avoid government regulations, which is inevitable if present evils are permitted to continue.

SOCIALIST BRITAIN by Francis Williams, published by the Viking Press, New York. A dispassionate, factual account of the background, present and an estimate of the future of Socialist but non-Communist Britain. It will cause the hackles to rise on the necks of the Republicrats and the National Association of Manufacturers, but it tells clearly what is happening in Europe and foretells what will happen in the United States if things keep on going as they have since 1914. Contains a revealing and apparently unconscious differentiation of "colored" peoples in Asia and Africa.

CHALLENGING YEARS by the late Stephen S. Wise, published by Putnam, New York. This is chiefly notes for the stirring autobiography of the great Jewish leader and one of the founders of the NAACP which he would have written had not death cut him down.

SOUTHERN POLITICS by V. O. Key, Jr., published by Alfred A. Knopf of New York. An exhaustive (and at times exhausting) story of what has happened to the nation and to the South at the hands of the assorted and sometimes fearsome characters who have strutted the Southern political stage. Its chief weakness is its failure to recognize the direct and the indirect impact of Negro political action in the John J. Parker fight and the court battles against disfranchisement devices like the "Grandfather Clause," the white primary cases, the poll tax, so-called understanding clauses, and mob intimidation.

THE MYSTERY OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD by Albert Schweitzer, published by MacMillan of New York. A tender, down-to-earth account by the great missionary doctor in Africa of the reasons why Jesus rejected the role of Messiah until just before his death and preferred to serve as teacher and prophet. Reading Dr. Schweitzer's book will give you a vastly different concept of Jesus and his motivation from that you hear from your pastor (if you go to church, that is).

(Reprinted by request)

26b 1950

Survey-NAACP
(Violence against American Negroes increased in 1949)

NAACP SURVEY SHOWS INCREASE IN VIOLENCE

NEW YORK—(ANP)—A survey by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People reveal that violence against American Negroes took a sharp increase in 1949.

The survey registered "gratifying evidences of progress in state legislation, political development and court decisions," the report said, but they were offset by congressional inaction and brutality often sanctioned by law enforcement officer.

The report showed that racial discrimination in housing continued to ride high and that in New York's two controversial housing developments, Stuyvesant Town and Levittown. race bias in an established fact.

According to the report, many champions of equal rights have been the victims of President Truman's loyalty probe executive order.

SINGLED OUT

Government employees "who have been inactive in pressing for full civil rights for minority groups have been singled out for attack under the loyalty program," the report declared.

Outstanding examples of violence against Negro citizens in 1949 include the "Florida reign of terror," which convicted three Negro youths, two facing death sentences; the Trenton Six case, involving trumped up charges against six Negro men held for murder; and the jailing of Mrs. Rosa Ingram and two sons in Georgia, who defended themselves against assault from a white farm.

At the same time, the NAACP said its membersship fell from 383,000 in 1948 to less than 250,000 in 1949. One case for the sharp drop was the increase in membership dues from $1 to $2.

Hodding Carter, editor and publisher of the Greenville (Miss) Delta Democrat-Times, whose editorials won a Pultizer Prize in 1946, has a new book to be published on Feb. 3 by Louisiana State University Press. "Southern Legacy" is an interpretation of the cultural, political and emotional state of the South today. Mr. Carter is also the author of two novels, "Winds of Fear" and "Flood Crest".

New York Times
Tues. 1-17-50

GERTRUDE Martin

Hodding Carter's 'Southern Legacy' Is A Disappointment

IN "SOUTHERN Legacy" Hodding Carter repeats with considerable warmth and emphasis his belief that everything is for the best in that best of all possible regions—the South. That is, Mr. Carter argues this point with much enthusiasm until the final chapters where he faces reality to a surprising degree.

For the greater part of his book Mr. Carter hails "the broadsword virtues of the clan" of which Stephen Vincent Benet writes in his famous epic poem, "John Brown's Body." Mr. Benet, however, said feelingly:

"Bury the bygone South
Bury the minstrel with the honey-mouth
Bury the broadsword virtues of the clan . . ."

But Mr. Carter writes with stars in his pen of the dear, dead days beyond recall. He doesn't mention the honey-mouthed minstrel although he does sing a hymn of praise to the Southern woman of the honey tongue.

Greenville, Mississippi, where he publishes a small newspaper (circulation, 13,000), is a garden spot spiritually and physically, Mr. Carter believes. As a Negro, I am inclined to question Mr. Carter's Mississippi magic. As a native Savannahian I find the following amazing, even for Hodding Carter:

"I believe that Savannah, Georgia, is an example of almost all the Negro wants now to attain or can attain as a citizen of the South. Savannah is not paradise, but it offers proof that segregation and subjugation need not go hand in hand . . ."

Included is a chapter called, "Just Leave Us Alone," which appeared in a recent issue of the Saturday Evening Post and which was mentioned here last week. With the Federal Government providing 22 per cent of the South's income and probably an increasing amount in years to come with Federal aid in education, and with its Negro citizens subject to indignities of all types up to death, this constitutes Mr. Carter's most ambitious flight from reality.

"Southern Legacy" lacks most of all imagination. Mr. Carter scorns Ray Sprigle's book, "In the Land of Jim Crow," which tells of the author's experiences in the Deep South disguised as a Negro. But a similar trip for Mr. Carter might throw new light on his native region and give him a conception of Mississippi through eyes more trained than those of Son McKnight, his erstwhile companion, body servant and bodyguard.

This is a disappointing, and sad, book because it reveals so much confusion in the mind of a man who has been hailed for his liberalism. Mr. Carter makes much of his tolerance toward Negroes, poor whites, labor, and the Sicilians who came to Louisiana during his youth. Yet his plea for the Solid South of old, his praise of the "virtues" which thrived on a system of exploitation are at odds with this tolerance. "Southern Legacy" adds another voice to the rising chorus including William Faulkner, David Cohn, Mark Etheridge, and others less prominent, who threaten dire results if the South is not left alone. They forget that the South's crimes against humanity, white and black, cannot be ignored and a civilization which does ignore them is not worthy of the name.

"Southern Legacy" by Hodding Carter; Louisiana State University Press; Baton Rouge, La., 1950; $3.00.

A Voice Of The New South

SOUTHERN LEGACY, by Hodding Carter. Louisiana State University Press; 186 pages, $3.

This book by Mississippi's noted Pulitzer Prize winner invites comparison with William Alexander Percy's "Lanterns on the Levee." Both authors wrote while living in Greenville, Miss. Both books are a compound of personal reminiscences and observations on the South. Both are written with grace and sensitivity. Both authors show fondness and pride of their native South. They both wrote with intelligence and a fine sympathy and great beauty and clarity.

But there the books diverge. "Lanterns on the Levee" looks mostly to the past. It is nostalgic. "Southern Legacy," while acknowledging the South's heritage, looks to the future. It is concerned with tomorrow. It recognizes change, some of it good, some of it bad, but seeks to point the direction of that change.

Against a background of his own experiences in a changing South, Carter develops his thesis. Its broad phases are familiar, but are given emphasis because they come here from a sympathetic Southerner who understands the problem. He urges more education, a balance between agriculture and industry, and a more rapid amelioration of the discriminatory aspects of the Negro-white relationship.

Negroes, Carter insists, must be recognized as citizens entitled to the same political rights and the same economic opportunity and capable of making equal contributions to democratic America. Such recognition is the paramount necessity for the South today, and for all America."

Many phases of the South are analyzed, our "guilt-ridden reaction" to outside interference, the power of demagogs, blind adherence to a cotton economy, the reluctance of careful men to challenge the old laissez faire.

But Carter is not one of those "careful" men. He writes the truth as he sees it. He thinks, a quality all too rare among Southern political leaders and Southern writers, who sometimes seem mostly to feel.

And here, for the benefit of the Dixiecrats, is a part of his comment on the States' Rights convention held in Mississippi: "I had read the civil rights program in full. I was suspicious of its motivation and doubtful of its wisdom and efficacy. But I had found in it no demand for social intermingling of the races of the South."

There is need in the South for a voice of clarity. We hope Hodding Carter's book will be widely read. But we fear it will not be read by those who need it most. Some Southerners will still go on supplying fuel for the worldwide Communist propaganda charge that democracy bears a label of "For Whites Only."

—J. F. ROTHERMEL

Hodding Carter was 43 the day his latest volume on the South appeared, but *Southern Legacy* is an old man's book. The "independent, liberal" editor of the *Delta Democrat-Times* has written a perceptive and often witty essay on life in Washington County, Mississippi. Carter is neither deaf nor blind to the life around him, but clearly it will be a long time before there is marked improvement in the South if we must wait for the Hodding Carters to do the job.

Southern Legacy is in the style of a great gentleman of the last generation, Will Percy, also of Washington County, Mississippi, upon whom Carter apparently models himself as well as his writing. Typical of the best of the old Delta aristocracy, the Percys lived for generations by a tradition of honor, dignity and fair-dealing. It was Will Percy who made it possible for the young Louisianan, Hodding Carter, to buy the Greenville newspaper and settle in the town during the depression. This book reflects the spirit of Will Percy. With good-humored candor, it tries to explain, so that even Yankees can understand, how black-belt white men feel about their wives and grandmothers, the Negro friends who grew up with them, the po' whites, the few foreigners who have drifted in, religion, physical courage, and Northerners who try to tell them what to do. Transplanted Southerners who have tried so often to do the same thing will best recognize how soundly he expounds on these familiar subjects.

On the key issue of the position of the Negro, however, Carter's nineteenth-century approach falls considerably short of what the times require. He favors "education, greater economic security, and protective legislation" to "soften the impact of racial antipathies." "But there is no formula for in forthright manner or from making clear the radical nature of the problem which Southern politics poses for the whole nation.

It is Key's fundamental thesis that the one-party system, built on "the position of the Negro" and "the role of the black belts," will continue to throttle the South so long as these two factors remain roughly what they are today. "The hard core of the political South," he contends, "is made up of those

'Southern Politics'

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Every professional politician and every political writer in this state would have a surer grasp of the present campaign and of the Southern circumstance if he read this book.

There is only one student among the 12 candidates for governor, but all of them would enhance their comprehension of Alabama politics today and tomorrow by grinding through this book. What they know intuitively of the how and why of Alabama politics, they would see traced, diagrammed and articulated in admirable fashion. In a way, they would see why they themselves tick. Likewise the voters.

"Southern Politics" was written by V. O. Key, Jr. He is now a professor of government at Yale University, but the book was worked up by a research team under his direction at the University of Alabama.

The work has been widely read and acclaimed. A chapter is devoted to the politics of each Southern state, describing the figures that have given each state its political character and the considerable differences in the political character of the states.

The theme of the book is stated thus:

> In its grand outlines the politics of the South revolves around the position of the Negro. It is at times interpreted as a politics of cotton, as a politics of free trade, as a politics of agrarian poverty, or as a politics of the planter and plutocrat.
>
> Although such interpretations have a superficial validity, in the last analysis the major peculiarities of Southern politics go back to the Negro. Whatever phase of the Southern political process one seeks to understand, sooner or later the trail of inquiry leads to the Negro.

ALABAMA is used as one illustration of this thesis. In 1928, the revolt against Al Smith did not occur in the Black Belt. It occurred in other parts of the state, the issue being prohibition and Catholicism. In the Black Belt the voters stood fast by the Democratic Party that had historically provided a shield against the Negro majority.

Therefore, there was a notable difference in the bolt of 1928 and 1948. For in 1948, North Alabama, with its much smaller proportion of Negroes, was less concerned about the civil rights issue than the Black Belt. It was the Black Belt and its white minorities that were (and are) most inflamed against Truman.

The book might have buttressed this difference arising out of the Negro concentration in the Black Belt even more strongly by pointing out that it has been manifest since Civil War days. North Alabama was relatively cold to Secession and most of the 3,000 Alabamians who fought with Grant in the Union Army were recruited in North Alabama.

★

THE chapter on Alabama ("Alabama: Planters, Populists, Big Mules") is on the whole sound. Of Alabama it is written:

> The political difference from Virginia to Alabama must be measured in light years. Virginian deference to the upper orders and the Byrd machine's restraint of popular aberrations give Virginia politics a tone and a reality radically different from the tumult of Alabama . . . Alabamians retain a sort of frontier independence . . .
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> Unlike Virginia, Alabama has not been dominated over a long period by a single well-disciplined machine. Nor have there been in recent years well organized competing machines. Political factions form and reform. . . . New statewide leaders emerge, rise to power, and disappear as others take their places. . . . No orderly system prevails —as under Virginia machine rule—for the recruitment, development and advancement of political leaders. Rather the political process is a free-for-all, with every man looking out for himself.

There are some minor errors, as is found in this:

> Some Alabama cities and towns have had political machines, the most notable being that of Montgomery. Town politicians have much the same relation to state-wide campaigns as their county counterparts.
>
> That statement has become invalid through adoption of a merit system in City Hall.

On the whole, however, the book treats with Graves, Dixon, Sparkman, Hill, Ellis, McCorvey, Wilkinson, Sparks, et al, in a reasonable fashion.

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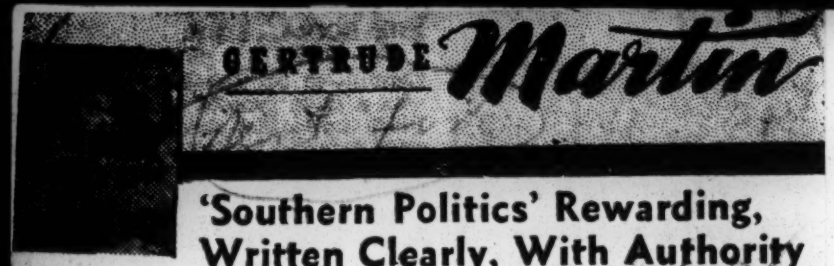


'Southern Politics' Rewarding, Written Clearly, With Authority

"SOUTHERN POLITICS," by V. O. Key, Jr., is an authoritative, informative work on that subject which runs to 675 pages, and I read each one of them with interest and appreciation. It is a book which cannot be read quickly because of its length and the wealth of information it contains, but it is written clearly and with a wry sense of humor, which, at times, pops up even in the foot notes.

"Southern Politics" is the result of a study of Southern electoral processes launched in 1946, under the direction of Dr. Key, at the University of Alabama. The study was financed by the Rockefeller Foundation. Over five hundred Southerners were interviewed and a painstaking examination of each state's political characteristics made.

"Southern Politics" makes it amply clear that a minority of Southern whites, the black-belt Bourbons, have dominated the South since Emancipation. Although large parts of the South do not go along with the aims of this group, they have in the past been drawn into line by the false threat of Negro domination. "The degree to which the race issue influences political life varies almost directly with the proportion of Negro population," Dr. Key writes. The states with the largest number of Negroes, Mississippi, South Carolina, Louisiana, Georgia and Alabama, have been most active in blocking Negroes from the polls.

Many Southern political ills can be laid at the foot of the one-party system, the author believes. Granting all the abuses of the two-party system of Northern States, there is still offered a choice of candidates and issues and a continuity of organization which makes for greater political stability. In those states like North Carolina and Tennessee, where the Republican party is strong, there is more active contesting of elections. The one-party system also lends itself to the rise of demagogues and to the perpetuation of voting frauds.

For the future, Dr. Key concludes that a variety of factors: the decline in the Negro population, the rise of industry and trade, the growth of cities, are making themselves felt and will, in time, effect political change. But "it is not to be supposed that these fundamental trends automatically bring political change. They only create conditions favorable to change that must be wrought by men and women disposed to take advantage of the opportunity to accelerate the inevitable."

"Southern Politics" makes it plain that the South is not a homogeneous region politically. Each state is examined in detail and each offers highly individual political features. For many years, a minority of a minority region has wielded power.

This is a book which should be read by all who would understand the workings of the race problem in this country. It is a must for politicians, teachers and leaders in every field. The average layman will also find it a rewarding book and one which will greatly increase his knowledge of politics, North and South. The University of Alabama, the Rockefeller Foundation, and especially Dr. Key, are to be congratulated on their enterprise.

"Southern Politics" by V. O. Key, Jr; Alfred A. Knopf; New York City; 1949

BOOKS AND THINGS

By JOHN K. HUTCHENS

While Lewis Gannett is on vacation, Mr. Hutchens is conducting this column.

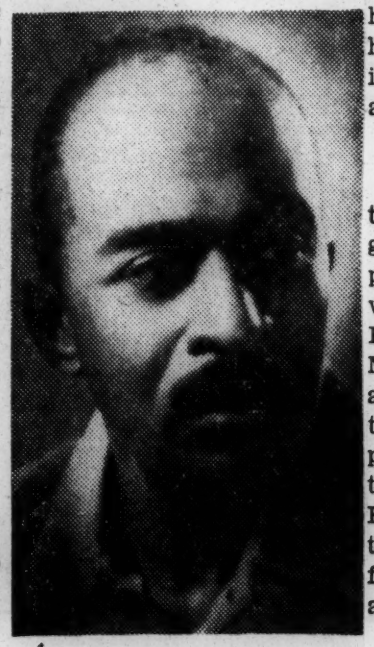
STRANGER AND ALONE. By J. Saunders Redding. Harcourt, Brace. 308 pages. $3.

"ALL that stuff," Shelton Howden said, meaning the lectures a white professor was giving at New Hope College on the racial inferiority of his students and all other Negroes—"all that stuff," Shelton asked the only Negro member of the faculty, "is it true?

"It is only true," said Professor Clarkson after a long silence, "if you believe it."

Betrayer and Betrayed

Shelton Howden did come to believe it, and so the jacket cover of J. Saunders Redding's novel adds a kind of subtitle, "The Story of a Man Who Betrayed His Own People." It is true enough, and it is also true that Mr. Redding's subtle and well written book makes another and a basic point—namely, that the betrayer had first been betrayed, by special circumstances and by life in general, and that this earlier and more terrible betrayal explained, if it did not excuse, a good deal of what followed.



J. Saunders Redding

In the orphan asylum where he grew up Shelton, born of a white father and a colored mother, heard himself called "half-white nigger bastard." When he arrived in 1923 at New Hope College, established fifty years before by Northern-born Congregationalist missionaries for the education of Negroes, he was physically older and mentally slower than his fellows, a socially clumsy work-student. All Shelton wanted was peace, and perhaps to be a doctor.

And from there, Mr. Redding goes on to present with much skill, and with painful and shaming detail, the destruction of a man by a system. Shelton had a chance—not much of a chance, maybe, but still a chance—until he came up against the world in which white and mulatto meet at some shadowy point and the treachery begins. In Shelton the poison had been injected at New Hope by Professor Posey, of Tulane, the white lecturer on racial inferiority. Under Perkins Wimbush, mulatto president of Arcadia State College for Negroes, where Shelton went to teach history, the poison really took hold. Conscience occasionally flickered—like many another Negro in a white world, Shelton was "conscious of another self taking possession of him and yet leaving a part of him free to watch and weigh"—but not for long.

It is an excellent performance by Mr. Redding, this unfolding of the process by which Shelton's not very bright mind is further clouded by the cynical college president known to his campus as the Old Man. The Old Man, the gossip went, was the son of old Governor Perkins (white), and as a youngster he had gone to boarding school in New England and to Harvard. Now he is boss of the State's Negro educational system, an expert at handing out the "gravy" to white men, taking humiliation without a quiver, sardonically justifying it all on grounds of "reality"—i. e., getting along with white folks on the white folks' terms.

Men in the Middle

The tragedy, the further betrayal is, of course, that he trains Shelton up in his image. "It's the goddamnedest thing," the Old Man observes to his protege. "We're right in the middle. We're the white man's nigger and the nigger's white man." How that works out in practice is the burden of Mr. Redding's book—the Old Man obsequious before a hillbilly Governor making a jocular inspection tour of the college, or, hat in hand, arranging political deals with the white supervisor of education. So the disintegration of his pupil, Shelton Howden, goes on, his rise to power by the success-through-expediency pattern he has learned so faithfully, his marriage to a woman he doesn't love, and his final shame.

It is nowhere tract-like. With every temptation to lose his temper, Mr. Redding writes sometimes with a restrained anger, more often with a cool, sharp irony, letting his story make its own points in vivid incident and character. This is a novel, and a quietly good one, about a world that is seldom explored with authority. Mr. Redding, who has just been a visiting professor of English literature at Brown University, and is a regular member of the faculty of Hampton Institute, brings that authority—and the skill and sensitivity to put it to work.

Talk With J. Saunders Redding

By HARVEY BREIT

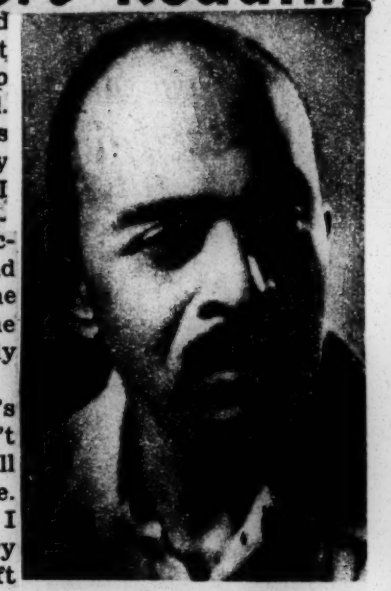
THE author of "Stranger and Alone" looks a little like he might have been both of those things at one time or another. J. Saunders Redding is the name—and his handsome, withdrawn looks have the stamp of someone who has known solitude intimately, and who has even learned to value it. That is not to say that Mr. Redding has decided to make the best of a dreary reality; it is to say rather, that he is intelligent, intellectually balanced, and concerned with going to the heart of what's the matter.

Mr. Redding, born forty-four years ago in Wilmington, Del., followed his brother to Brown University. "I didn't know what I wanted to do except write," he says, "but I knew I couldn't afford it." He took a job teaching in Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga., got fired a few years later, and returned to Brown for an advance degree. He is now a regular member of the faculty of Hampton Institute in Virginia. (Recently he was invited to Brown as a visiting professor.) "Stranger and Alone" is his third book, and he's finished a new one, too—not a novel—called "They Came in Chains."

"I suppose it's a cultural history really," Mr. Redding said about his newest book—one in the Peoples of America series. "I saw the materials with which I had to work as simply a part of the American story."

Mr. Redding paused abruptly. Would Mr. Redding talk about his recently published novel? "It's an impossible book to talk about," he said, "but I got so fed up with novels about Negroes from a sort of . . . oh, oh, how shall I put it? . . . from a propagandist point of view (there must be a better word but today isn't my day), novels which seem to me not to have a balance, a kind of adultness as it were. I got awfully tired of them. Well, I tried to be an adult in the handling of the material, that's all."

Did Mr. Redding hold with the notion of a Southern renaissance in literature? "My own feeling about the so-called Southern literature in the last twenty years can be summed up easily," Mr. Redding said. "With the death of Thomas Wolfe the South lost probably its truest representative. I mean Truman Capote and Eudora Welty and Carson McCullers, and in a certain kind of way even Katherine Anne Porter, kind of fade out in the esoteric, in the too delicately shaded, it seems to me."



J. Saunders Redding.

Mr. Redding paused. "There's Faulkner," he went on. "I don't know about Faulkner. He's full of thunder, it seems to me. Thunder—and lightning, I guess. I don't know. I'm sorry that Robert Penn Warren left the South. I don't see why these people leave the South. If the South is their interest and the things they write about are peculiarly Southern, they ought to stay there."

WASN'T that a little rigid? Wasn't it possible for a writer to want some distance from a too immediate environment? There was the fact of a number of Irish writers leaving Ireland, for example. "There may be something in that," Mr. Redding argued, "but I just don't see how or why it is necessary to put a thousand miles between yourself and your sources in order to elaborate those sources artistically and set them down objectively. God knows there is little enough inspiration anywhere, and if you're right in the middle of what inspires you, why the hell should you want to leave?"

Mr. Redding paused, unheatedly, smilingly even, summing up. "I think it's a kind of pose," he said. Why did he think that? "Well," Mr. Redding replied, "creative people strike attitudes, that's all." He paused again, thinking the matter over a bit. "I may be wrong as hell," he said then. "As a matter of fact, I may want to get away myself one of these days."

Redding's 'Stranger and Alone' Shows Warped Soul of an Educated 'Uncle Tom'

[STRANGE AND ALONE, by J. Saunders Redding. New York, Hartcourt, Brace and Company 1950 $3.50]

J. Saunders Redding, AFRO columnist and professor of English at Hampton Institute, has written a good novel in "Stranger and Alone." Without sensationalism or sentimentality, he has drawn a careful and significant portrait of a man who is almost terrifyingly familiar to many of us.

The elements which produced Shelton Howden are more subtle than those which accounted for "Native Son," but his warped soul is just as horrible, in a way, as that of Bigger Thomas. He is just as recognizable, too.

While Mr. Redding disclaims—and sincerely — that intent to portray any particular individual living or dead, the Shelton Howdens of our race, like the college president, Perkins Wimbush, are not at all rare.

Fruits of Deprivation

This is the story of what can happen to a person whose handicaps are intensified by the deprivations of what Mr. Redding calls "Negroness." Born out of wedlock, the child of a white father and a colored mother, Shelton Howden had a bitter childhood and adolescence in an orphanage.

He, therefore, seeks the key to happiness and success in a college education at an institution of "higher" learning, run by white missionaries and ironically called New Hope.

Not-too-bright, clumsy and suspicious in his relations with other people, older than his classmates, and a work student. Shelton never knows the carefree joys of college days. He labors and studies, has no social life.

His roommates are a vicious brute named Inky Spillman, who gets expelled, and Fred Thompson, who died of tuberculosis, unattended and alone, in a dormitory room one summer.

Self Interest Develops

Shelton's only other associates at New Hope are Professor Clarkson and his family, whom Shelton secretly despises, and a co-ed who offers him friendship and then repulses his fumbling efforts to make love to her.

Self-fulfilment for him, at the end of his college days, has become self-interest, a callous indifference to others, and a mounting hatred and contempt for the "inferior" race to which he is doomed to belong.

The habits of thinking and feeling—or not feeling—which were ingrained in Shelton at New Hope, harden and become fixed in his after-college years.

He considers himself better than the other men he works with on the railroad in his effort to make money to study medicine. Their resentment leads to an accident in which Shelton's arm is crippled, making it impossible for him to become a physician.

Gets College Job in South

But he is able to get a master's degree and a job at a college in the South. And the same selfish absorption, dogged determination and will to work toward his own ends, with resentment and contempt for the rest of the world, and especially colored persons, making him the favored protegee of the cynical head of the institution, President Wimbush.

"In the truest sense, my boy," President Wimbush tells Shelton, "we're the white man's 'n----s.'

"We can help it, can we? And we're conditioned to it, aren't we?

"Our instincts were corrupted at our birth, by the very circumstances of our conception, and the conditioning has been going on ever since.

"The thing is, that our fathers begot us in scorn and loathing, and we'll go on avenging ourselves on our mothers until we die."

This becomes Shelton's philosophy and career, as he advances under the aegis of President Wimbush, to the post of supervisor of "nigra" education for the State.

Fails to Understand Associates

He can't understand Spurgeon Kelly who leaves his teaching job rather than play monkey for the white folks, the way Wimbush and Shelton do.

Neither can Shelton understand Curtis Flack, later on, and his drive for reistering voters through the L.I.C., or Principal Pretlow, and his opinions about equal facilities and salaries for colored school children and school teachers.

He despises and betrays these aspirations of the race whenever he encounters them.

The closest Shelton ever comes to love is a frustrated passion for Gerry, President Wimbush's neurotic daughter, who refuses to marry him, yet gives him her body.

He marries another girl, Nan, without love or eagerness, and hates it when she finds she is going to have a child. "He didn't want a child. He didn't want to have to bring up a 'd----y' child—."

Not Much Plot

In the sense of action and climaxes, there is not much plot in "Stranger and Alone."

It is interesting reading rather because of the inevitables, step-by-step progression of Shelton Howden toward the culmination of the specialized Uncle Tom role he has chosen for his life-work,—the moment he stands outside of the office of a cracker judge named Reed, prepared to inform on the L.I.C. and Principal Pretlow, and asks permission to see the Judge from a young white woman who says,

"All right, Shelton. You can go on in."

Mr. Redding uses his pen as delicately and as dispassionately as a skilled surgeon handles a scalpel in a difficult operation. His prose is stripped of all but the essentials, poetic but never lush, a quiet, thoughtful prose, for quiet, thoughtful reading.—V. T.

"THE BIZARRE SISTERS"

Ante-Bellum Plantation Scandal

"The Bizarre Sisters," a novel by Jay and Aubrey Walz ($3.50 Duell, Sloan and Pearce, Inc., New York) is the true story of a branch of the famous Randolph clan of Virginia. If this were fiction it would be unbelievable. "Made up" novels have to be more consistent in character; more logical in plot. Fortunately, life does not need to bother with such trivialities.

Plain Judith Randolph married handsome Richard Randolph, a cousin. It was said that only Randolphs were good enough to marry Randolphs. Then Judy's sister, Nancy, younger and prettier, came to live with them. In spite of Richard's otherwise noble character, and Nancy's usual integrity, they are violently attracted and Nancy becomes pregnant. This starts a web spinning that imprisons them all figuratively; and actually for a time, Nancy and her lover are in jail accused of murdering their illegitimate child.

The "people" did not love the Randolphs who were too proud and haughty so they greatly relished the scandal and did all they could to humiliate the culprits. Had it not been for the eloquence of old Patrick Henry and the perjured testimony of Judy the pair would surely have hung. But pride of family makes them stick together and Judy's belief that another cousin had fathered the dead child, not her husband, makes her stake her word on their innocence. Afterwards, she discovers the truth then the real tragedy begins for the three must continue to live in the same house for appearance's sake.

Judy wages a relentless private war against her sister. She treats her husband with meticulous politeness and irreproachable submission while treating her sister with cruelty that is cool and planned.

I think the authors must have guessed a bit in here but according to the book—it is never proven—Judy tricks Nancy into poisoning Richard. After that they seem to get along better for a spell—contrary to the laws of good fiction—as they play hostesses to the Uncle John's political friends. Then Judy falls in love with another cousin but he marries someone else and dies soon after so in chagrin she turns to religion which does not help her character any.

This amazing story is laid against a backdrop of slavery and interwoven with famous names. Before he dies Richard wills freedom and economic independence to his slaves; while Nancy incurs the wrath of her sister and society by teaching their house slaves to read and write and treating them like human beings. For this "treason" which Judy twists into something sinister, Nancy is driven out and goes "North" where she ends up the wife of the rich and famous Gouverneur Morris. Well, there doesn't seem to be any moral in all this. Fortunately, life is above petty morality.

JOSEPHINE SCHUYLER,
New York. N. Y.

The Negro's story—from tribal jungle to today's culture

"They Came in Chains," by J. Saunders Redding. Lippincott, 1950; 320 pages, $3.50.

* * *

"The Peoples of America Series" is a monumental factor in the slow but sure intercultural evolution through which we are passing. There are 10 books in the series, each portraying the history of a distinct racial segment of our country. Eight of these have already been published. Each publication is written by a person handpicked for his personal and professional qualifications. J. Saunders Redding, who has written extensively for magazines, won the Mayflower Award for distinguished writting and a Guggenheim Fellowship to write a novel, has been Visiting Professor of English at Brown University and is currently teaching at Hampton Institute. "They Came in Chains" portrays the Negro from his tribal existence in Africa to his present accomplishments and current bids for "first class citizenship."

* * *

AS PART ONE OPENS, one can hear the drum of African tomtoms and see the victors of tribal warfare take their human loot into bondage. When the lust for gold drove the white man to Africa in the 15th century, he needed only his commercial skill to transport the already developed slave traffic to the rest of the world. When the first slaves were brought to North America, they immediately became entwined in the economic and political life which steadily grew more complicated.

From the very outset, the Negro rebelled against the horrors of his servitude. Despite the fact that the South had much to fear and was infuriated because the mode of living was threatened, every possible step was taken to preserve it. In the North, the abolitionists were bringing pressure to bear which accelerated to white heat when the revealing "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was published. The great controversy over the Negro's status in the new states of the West added fuel to the fire. Dissatisfaction with all proposed and tried compromises rushed the uncontrolled emotional outbursts that led to the secession and the Civil War.

* * *

FOLLOWING LINCOLN'S Emancipation Proclamation and the close of the war, the Negro was a voter and officeholder for a day, and then came economic and political oblivion. Through gradual advances in education, unselfish leaders gave their all and retired; powerful organizations through their might forced locked doors to open to opportunity; legislation made many hopes and aspirations of the Negro into law. The dawn of full citizenship is breaking—"though in doubt and terror and pain and blood."

Little known facts and human interest stories of outstanding personalities bring the text to life. Many excerpts from the pens and lips of Negroes reveal not only their personal convictions, but also the spirit and tempo of the times. The philosophy of the Negro was tremendously influenced by Booker T. Washington's doctrine of industrial education, later by W. E. B. DuBois' doctrine of complete integration. Mr. Redding's discrediting of the former will probably provoke resentment in some quarters. From the blood of Crispus Attucks and gallant service of Deborah Gannett, the only woman to bear arms in the Revolutionary War, to the courageous stand of Dorie Miller at Pearl Harbor, the Negro has honorably given his life in every armed conflict in which his country has engaged. In each war he seized the opportunity made possible by dire need for his talent and service to advance his status. Books of this type are often rendered monotonous by cold facts and depressing by tragic struggle. Mr. Redding, however, has cleverly interwoven expressions of the Negro's creative genius—his poetry, his music—that make the book valuable not only for reference, but also for cover-to-cover reading.—JOSIE MAE OLIVER, Parker High School librarian.

J. Saunders Redding Publishes New Book

HAMPTON, Va. — "They Came in Chains," second work this year from the pen of J. Saunders Redding, professor of English at Hampton Institute, will be published July 11, by Lippincott in the "Peoples of America Series." It is the story of the American Negro from his origins in Africa to the present.

Since Jamestown Arrival

Redding Book Notes Negro's Uphill Fight

THEY CAME IN CHAINS, Americans from Africa. By J. Saunders Redding. Lippincott. 320 pp. $3.50.

The newest addition to Lippincott's series, The Peoples of America, "They Came in Chains" is a history of the Negro in the United States.

J. Saunders Redding's admirably written narrative begins, of course, with the fateful arrival at Jamestown in 1619 of a ship carrying 20 slaves. The vessel with the Dutch flag, and the English colonists who bought the "black ivory," had begun a situation of which the end is not yet.

In the words of the historian, Louis B. Wright, "Colonists of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries little realized that the black bondservants whom they bought and sold so eagerly would subtly influence their own lives, and the lives of their sons after them to the seventh and seven times the seventh generation."

In this connection, it is interesting to note that the problems and aspects of slavery which troubled, or embarrassed, later generations had been largely experienced by the time the national capitol had been established in Washington.

Exploitation Target

THE NEGRO was of a different color, so he was visibly different, and he was obviously of a lower social and intellectual order, since he came from Africa instead of Europe, and it was therefore within the Divine Plan that he be exploited.

Alliances between Negro slaves and white bondservants were discouraged and intermarriage forbidden. Rebellion, murder and arson were not unknown, and economic competition from the Negro was at times feared. Laws were made to curb the freedom of free Negroes, just as in post Civil War times. After about 1750 the ideas of the humanitarian movement began to be felt, complicating consciences.

There were abolitionists, and there was even a precedent for the Emancipation Proclamation in the freeing of slaves by the British during the Revolution, during which Negroes fought in the American armies.

Nat Turner's bloody revolt, the underground railroad, the Civil War, the Freedmen's Bureau, about which there is need for more knowledge, Reconstruction, and subsequent events are treated with due proportion in Redding's history, and he notes in passing the upsurge around 1900 of the romantic literary legend of the ante bellum South —where plantation owners were all chivalrous cavaliers, breeding slaves for money was never heard of, and leopard and **Ethiop**, you were to understand, could never change.

Upward Moves Reviewed

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON'S role in the evolution of the Negro's status, as well as that of W. E. B. Du Bois, receives careful consideration; the development of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (apparently so much a part of Negro life that it is listed in the index only by initials), and other organizations and movements are duly noted.

Approximately the last 50 pages, about a sixth of the book, are devoted to developments since World War I, and it is reassuring to be told again the Communist Party's failure to snare any large number of Negro adherents.

In his conclusion, the least firmly written portion of the book, Reddings says that not in appeals to world opinion, but "within the framework of the nation" would Negroes "continue to concentrate their energies in the struggle for final and complete emancipation."

Redding's history of the Negro in the United States is dispassionate and well proportioned. Naturally sympathetic to the Negro, his subject does not run away from him and there is no special pleading. He does not hesitate to tell unkind truths on both sides of the fence.

He does appear to pussyfoot a bit about recent events, but since these are controversial matters in which all the evidence is not yet available, and he is writing a history, not a polemic, his caution is justified.

"They Came in Chains" may not please controversialists, but it will satisfy the general reader who wishes to be informed.

BOOKS AND THINGS

By JOHN K. HUTCHENS

While Lewis Gannett is on vacation, Mr. Hutchens is conducting this column.

Herald-Tribune

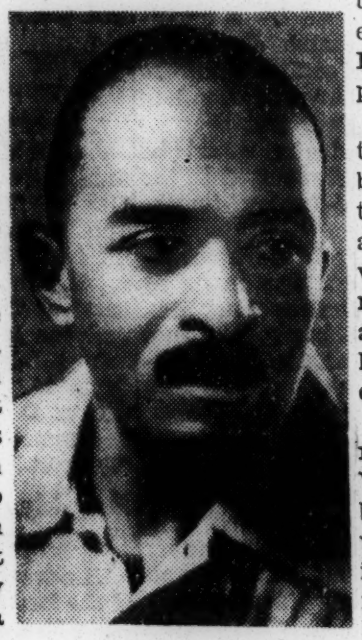
THEY CAME IN CHAINS. By J. Saunders Redding. Lippincott. 320 pages. $3.50.

THEY came in chains, and the chains have not yet all been struck off, figuratively speaking. Or even literally, as a Scottsboro case and its aftermath can attest. This story of the American Negro, as told by a distinguished one, is successively fearful, despairing and, finally and quite recently, hopeful. If the story still has a long way to go in a democracy, within living memory it has at least spanned the chasm between human slavery and the fact that a book like this is possible—and that a man like Mr. Redding is available to write it.

Wed. 7-12-50

A Story With a Theme

An accomplished writer ("No Day of Triumph," "Stranger and Alone") and a scholar (Professor of English, Hampton Institute), Mr. Redding is writing here for the Peoples of America series. And, more than most of the volumes in that excellent collection, this one has a central thesis to which almost everything else in the book relates. Which is, that from the day the first African Negro was brought to North America the Negro has been the victim of a race-concept forced upon him by some one else for a variety of reasons, none of them good.



J. Saunders Redding

With a kind of tempered fierceness, Mr. Redding sets about destroying that race-caste myth, from its origins in soothing the slaveholder's conscience to the subtler rationalizations of today. His discussion has its arguable aspects. By and large it is, I should say, unanswerable. And dramatic and heroic as any fight upward from the depths.

Arriving in chains, the slave was a "heathen" and therefore inferior and outside the pale of the Christian ethic. That was the first balm to the slaveholding conscience, to which the early and some of the later churches (always excepting the Quakers) gave approval. The slave was an animal, and therefore dangerous, and so to be killed with impunity. But also the Negro was docile, a happy-go-lucky child better off in bondage than outside it—this to support the sentimental, magnolia-scented, Thomas Nelson Page school of fiction. The Negro was a coward, though by a huge irony his distinguished service in the Revolution did much to create the country in which he and his children were to be enslaved.

Thus the pattern, so replete with falsehood and contradictions which Mr. Redding must have taken a grim pleasure in knocking down. Behind the pattern, as Lillian Smith also has pointed out, was—and is—the oppressor's sense of guilt, his fear of the wronged. Certainly the slave was dangerous. He committed murder and arson—and Mr. Redding catalogues the conditions that drove him to it. If you have been moved by romantic films and novels of the Old South lately, the catalogue may jar you.

The average slave did not live to be Old Cotton Top around the cabin door. He was apt to die young because he was worked to death. The suicide rate was high. Because he lived in what amounted to a police state, he did not share John C. Calhoun's notion that the flowering of civilization required the inequality of men. Even the freedman had no easy time. In the South he was a potential menace. In the North, free white labor feared his competition.

New York Times

That was the darkest time, and its shadow was to linger until today. Not that the progress has been steady. In the first decade of this century the Negro's plight, according to this historian, was at its lowest ebb since the Emancipation, bloody with strife induced by urban crowding and economic competition. In those ten years there were almost a thousand lynchings. Even Negroes who knew better began to accept the imposed tradition of their own inferiority.

For some of this Mr. Redding blames his own race, including Booker T. Washington. He credits Washington with certain practical achievements, but in general excoriates him for a program of mere vocationalism and for the counsel of docility. He is sardonic about the contribution of Negro colleges in the last quarter century, and about the snobbish class structure of Negro society.

A Roster of Great Ones

But the chronicle is exhilarating as well as tragic. Here are great leaders like Frederick Douglass, heroines like Harriet Tubman; in our own century, writers like Richard Wright, Langston Hughes, James Weldon Johnson; intellectuals like Alain Locke, W. E. B. DuBois and Walter White; artists and actors like Marian Anderson, Richard B. Harrison, Florence Mills, Roland Hayes. I wish that Mr. Redding, perhaps our outstanding authority on the Negro's contribution to American culture, had dwelt in more detail on this. What he does enter on the record leaves precisely nothing of that race-concept he set out to destroy—and does destroy.

The story ends on the high note of the citizens' committee report recommending a national civil rights program, the end of segregation, the enactment of a fair employment practice act. It cannot make the Negro forget the past or overlook a good deal of the present. But it can make him feel like a citizen, after too long.

By George S. Schuyler

Views and Reviews

Bert Sennicks Whipped a Mean Piano

(The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily express the editorial opinion of The Courier—The Editors.)

IT WAS, I believe, the summer of 1901 or 1902, when we lived in bucolic surroundings in the suburb of Brighton, on the edge of Syracuse, N. Y., that Bert Sennicks visited us.

Bert was a tall, handsome, young brown-skin man, a cousin from nearby Frankfort, but the only thing I remember about him was that he whipped a mean piano. It was a fine, huge, square piano and he made it rock with ragtime where previously nothing gayer had been heard from it than "Ta-Ra-Ra-Boom-De-Ay." The flowers in the vases waved back and forth and the mementos from the Columbian Exposition (1893) jigged on the shelves of the what-not in the corner.

Mr. Schuyler

Our three or four neighbors came to their open windows and the Georgia-born white man who lived across the way was drawn over as the Pied Piper of Hamelin wooed the town's small fry.

Courier Dat. 12-9-50

IT WAS MY introduction to ragtime (and the family's, too) and I was fascinated as I sat on my stool with chin on fists like Rodin's "The Thinker." I have been sold on syncopation ever since, following the careers and compositions of the solid piano men from Scott Joplin to the present, from early ragtime to bop.

Pittsburgh Pa

In those days of long ago ragtime was socially and musically in the dog-house or, more accurately in the bawdy house, because there is where it got its start. Ragtime, blues, jazz and boogie woogie are Negro music, and the only indigenous American music worthy of the name. The best of it was first heard in the back rooms of gin mills and barrel houses, and in the parlors of bordellos, because those were the only places where the daring Negro musical innovators were tolerated at a time when the European musical influence was dominant and the nation was doing waltzes and schottiches.

Because syncopation was revolutionary, it was not respectable among either whites or Negroes of the upper and middle classes; not simply because it was Negro music, but because it was underworld music.

The underworld at that time was powerful and the symbol of sin. Every city and town had a well-defined "district," increasingly under fire by the churches and feminists, and the temperance movement was gaining impetus with Carrie Nation smashing barrooms all over the place.

The white emblem of the temperance pledge appeared in millions of lapels.

* * *

NEVERTHELESS, ANYTHING so gay, so tiltillating, so infectious as ragtime could not help but eventually sweep the country and the entire world.

It is noteworthy that no other national music has similarly enslaved the people of all countries on all continents. Even Marxism never won such an audience, and despite the corruptors and exploiters of ragtime and jazz, it has done more to spread an appreciation of the American temperament and attitude than all of the other U. S. propaganda put together.

Play it anywhere from Point Barrow to Punta Arenas and you will win the crowd every time. Its spread is the sensation of the half century, and while the white-controlled music trust may be the financial winner, the Negro is still champion.

Several white writers, first Europeans and later Americans, and some U. S. Ethiops (James Weldon Johnson and W. C. Handy) have told the story of jazz and jazzmen. In so doing they have given us more authentic histories of the Negro in the past half century than any other writers. They have given us expert technical criticism of the best of this wonderful music, unsurpassed by none in its intricacies; but quite as important they have told us of the lives, the ups and downs, of these great Negro musicians.

The latest work which I cannot praise too highly is "They All Played Ragtime" by Rudi Blesh (who also wrote "Shining Trumpets") and Harriet Janis (Alfred A. Knopf. $4).

Here is the full story of the great ragtime piano players of all time, from Scott Joplin and "The Maple Leaf Rag" to the present.

Through these pages march Williams and Walker, Clarence Williams, Spencer Williams, Fats Waller, Ethel Waters, James P. Johnson, Jelly Roll Morton, Lucky Roberts, Duke Ellington, Thomas and Sam Turpin, Will Vodery, Ernest Hogan, Ma Rainey, Bessie and Mamie Smith, Florence Mills, Arthur Marshall, Meade Lux Lewis, Albert Ammons, Teenan Jones, Lonnie Hicks, Will Marion Cook, Louis Chauvin, Shelton Brooks and numerous others.

Here is a great, rich, sympathetic, comprehensive picture of another side of America covering the last seventy-five years. It is meaty, analytic, understanding, and will give you a feeling of great pride. Mr. Blesh is a Southerner (Oklahoma) and Miss Janis is a New Yorker. They write well and they understand "our" viewpoint.

You couldn't give a better Christmas present than this and your own library will suffer without "They All Played Ragtime."

Criminals At Large

High-Jinks in Jamaica

THE NEAT LITTLE CORPSE. By Max Murray. 240 pp. New York: Farrar, Straus & Co. $2.50.

AS a mystery (let's put it bluntly) the new Max Murray is one of the season's flat failures—a rank, inept and unedited farrago of suppressed evidence, nebulous motivations, and events that remain incomprehensible even after their "solution." Fans know that Murray's success depends on a quiet, unobtrusively slick charm; and that charm is plentifully evident in the latest. Jamaica provides a beautiful setting, complete with obeah and deep-sea diving; No matter how little sense it all makes in the end, you'll have a highly agreeable time reading it.

ANTHONY BOUCHER.

LANGSTON Hughes

World In Need Of Peace, Not Of The Troubled Sort

"SHE BROUGHT FORTH her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there was in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men," so it is recorded in the Gospel according to Saint Luke.

That was almost two thousand years ago. Today, there is but little peace in this world, and that is of a troubled sort. But most men wish peace. And most men desire good will in their hearts. And all the Christian world this Christmastide remembers Bethlehem and the Child who was born in a manger because there was no room for him in the inn, no doubt because his parents were poor, unable to buy or bribe their way into the crowded hotels of the town, or to send a messenger ahead for reservations. Besides, they did not belong to the aristocracy, and no inn would have been flattered by their patronage.

There are inns today in our America that would not welcome Lieutenant Gilbert nor his wife and children were they to find themselves in a strange city at nightfall. Yet, Lieutenant Gilbert has been a soldier of democracy for ten years now, winning two Bronze Battle Stars with the 365th Infantry in Italy, and more recently leading his men where thousands of Negro GI's have been, in the words of Ralph Bunche, "fightly valiantly over the rugged terrain of Korea in order that Koreans may enjoy that freedom and equality which these same Negro GI's never experienced in full at home." Lieutenant Gilbert is a Negro, lying this Christmastide in a distant prison, sentenced to twenty years for what the military termed cowardice before the enemy.

Gilbert pleaded not guilty. An army psychiatrist, Captain Krause, stated that he believed that at the time of the alleged offense, Gilbert was suffering from a nervous illness, an anxiety reaction. In the First World War they called it shell shock. In the Second World War they called it battle fatigue. Sometimes men are sent to the hospital for it, sometimes to jail. Breakdown in battle, shell shock, battle fatigue, anxiety reaction. And maybe for Negro soldiers, Jim Crow shock—the thousands of inn doors slammed in their faces around the white world, the segregated army units, the generals almost all white, the commands coming almost always from white mouths. At any rate, Lieutenant Gilbert was sentenced to death, later commuted to twenty years.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People does not feel that Lieutenant Gilbert had a fair trial. Its "Committee of 100" has issued a pamphlet called "The Ordeal of Lieutenant Gilbert" which they will send you for the asking. Address the N.A.A.C.P., 20 West 40th Street, New York 18, N. Y. And if you wish to make a contribution to the Legal Defense Fund, make checks or money orders payable to Allan Knight Chalmers, Treasurer. There is no question but that the N.A.A.C.P.'s legal staff have won wonderfully significant victories for democracy in recent months in the fields of the ballot and of education. Their interest in this case is of great importance for the fair treatment of all soldiers, white or colored, before a court martial, and for the use of modern medical and psychiatric judgments rather than outmoded personal and military ones. For the peace that must be sought and the good will that must be taught in this world, in memory of the Christ Child this Christmastide, you could give no better gift than a contribution to the N.A.A.C.P.'s legal fight for the protection and extension of a raceless democracy.

THE STUBBORN HEART, by Frank G. Slaughter (Doubleday, $3). A novel set in the South during the Reconstruction.

Book Review

The Challenge: A Study in Negro Leadership, by Julius J. Adams. Wendell Mallet Publishers. New York. 154 pp. $2.75.

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

The thesis of Julius J. Adams' vigorously written book is this: "The colored man's plight and low status in this country is largely the result of ineffective leadership . . . a leadership which has shown itself utterly incapable of directing the people toward the realization of full citizenship rights and privileges."

This is a frank indictment, which Mr. Adams supports, certainly to his own satisfaction, by pointing out the division of colored leadership" which "has made it impossible for that leadership to combine its talents and decide unequivocally on what course it should take. Thus, while there is an agreement on ends — full integration of colored people into American life — the conflict over means causes a "flagrant dissipation of time and energy."

Leaders Named

And who are these leaders? Well, there is Walter White; but Mr. Adams infers that the absent-on-leave secretary of the NAACP has weakened his position by marrying a white woman and by writing an article on a chemical which it is claimed will turn black folk white.

Then there is A. Philip Randolph, but Randolph is "undiplomatic, preferring to fight to the bitter end," and his philosophy is too far to the left.

Mr. Adams also lists Lester Granger, Channing Tobias and Adam Powell Jr. The latter, aside from being "brash," is governed by "a Messianic complex."

Dr. Tobias has played a long and distinguished role, but Mr. Adams seems to think that Dr. Tobias, "at this late period in his life," is too old for the demands of the present day. Mr. Granger, on the other hand, "is more suave than white" and is quite possibly the coming man.

Having disposed of the leaders by various tonnages of blasting powder, Mr. Adams has cleared the ground for an analysis of the various means and movements the colored man has chosen to advance the race.

"Confused and Bewildered"

He examines the church and suggests that its brilliant preachers are "confused and bewildered." The NAACP he condemns for shadow-boxing. Of the Urban League he says merely that it has been accused "of having compromised the rights of the colored man and carrying the ball for reactionary 'big business.'"

The colored press has its faults, but they are the faults of poverty and, on the whole, the press is doing a good and a necessary job.

Finally, our politics and politicians (Congressman Dawson, J. Raymond Jones, etc.) are of the machine variety and can not be counted on for much; and colored labor, inside the ranks of organized labor, is quite weak.

To correct these weaknesses and to dissipate the conflict among leaders, Mr. Adams has a proposal. He proposes yet another group or council — but with a difference. This council would be an overall co-ordinating body of "nine separate and distinct departments."

There would be a department of business and finance; one of civil liberties, one of education, etc. The work of the council would be supported by an annual budget of $1,000,000, raised principally among colored people.

The council would investigate, propagandize, advise, promote and generally "provide the necessary leadership and guidance."

But, as Mr. Adams says, "an entire book would be necessary to describe" . . . the various functions of the proposed organization. And since Mr. Adams has not written that book, this reviewer cannot presume to supply a description.

BOOK REVIEW:

"THE CHALLENGE" STUDY IN NEGRO LEADERSHIP

Julius J. Adams, able newspaperman and veteran reporter and critic, has written his first book, "The Challenge," a study in Negro leadership, (Wendell Malliet & Co. $2.75) which belongs on the bookshelf of every person who wants to be called intelligent. It is a serious and brilliant piece of practical writing, "The Challenge," and in it, Mr. Adams actually hurls the challenge at those "masterminding" the Negro's progress in the U. S. to "come together and re-plan the Negro's program, then set down to business and execute that program."

Walter White Best Known

"Today," wrote Mr. Adams, "there are many individuals broadly described as Negro leaders, but they are limited to special fields of activity and endeavor. The best known to the white world is Walter White, who has seen more than a quarter century of service with the NAACP." The author then singles out another "leader to whom the Negro looks for the development and execution of a sound program," A. Philip Randolph, International President of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, and Chairman of the March on Washington Movement.

"He occupies," says Mr. Adams, "a position of leadership similar in scope to that of the NAACP executive. Unlike his contemporary Mr. White (whose field is civil liberties, and in which field he has become a shrewd diplomat, a clever negotiator, and an expert strategist), Mr. Randolph specializes in the field of labor. In this field, "Mr. Adams observes, "he has proved himself a good organizer and courageous leader. But, at times he is undiplomatic, preferring to fight to the bitter end rather than compromise what he thinks is right.

Somewhere Between

"Randolph, who does not move about in the 'white world' with the ease of Walter White, simply does not possess White's genius for discussion, protocol and bargaining. Somewhere between the views and approaches of these two personalities, will emerge the principles upon which the Negro's 'all-out-campaign for equal rights and recognition as a full-fledged American citizen will be waged."

"The Challenge" names in addition to White and Randolph, these topflight leadership personalities—Lester B. Granger of the Urban League; Dr. Channing H. Tobias of the YMCA and the Phelps-Stokes Fund; the Rev. Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Abyssinian Baptist Church pastor and U.S. Congressman from New York; and Paul Robeson, the singer. Possessed of keen analytical perceptions, Mr. Adams, now one of the editors of the Amsterdam News and a former managing editor of the Chicago Defender, brings to bear his many years of experience and observation from his "seat on the aisle" on the American Negro Pageant. He skillfully tears apart many of the foibles about the race problem and brings to light the trouble spots that must be done away with before the march can be resumed.

—Dan Bre[illegible]ev.

"The Fire on the Mountain"

Ethiopian Folk Tale

THE FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN and Other Ethiopian Stories. By Harold Courlander and Wolf Leslau. Illustrated by Robert Kane. 141 pp. New York: Henry Holt & Co. $3.

For Ages 8 to 12.

IN Ethiopia the folks tell some wonderfully funny stories about the lion, the leopard, the jackal and that most foolish of all creatures, man. Here are twenty-four of them, gathered from many corners of that little-known country by Harold Courlander, co-author of "The Cowtail Switch and Other West African Stories," and Wolf Leslau. Their basic themes are universal to all folklore: the weak who outwit the strong, man's gullibility, the conflict between right and wrong. Yet they have their own unique flavor, the most distinctive quality of which is the humor and the irony with which the natives clothe these parables of human foolishness, astuteness, wit and wisdom. Underlying many of them is an emphasis upon man's search for justice and for freedom. This is a rich collection, full of fresh material for the story-teller, written with such clarity and simplicity that children can read them with ease.

ELLEN LEWIS BUELL.

Current reading

By MINNIE LOMAX

THE SOUTHERN NEGRO COLLEGE PRESIDENT AS BETRAYER OF HIS PEOPLE

Stranger and Alone. By J. Saunders Redding. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co. 308 pp. $3.00.

What Bucklin Moon had to say in his book, "The High Cost of Prejudice," about the part played by Negro colleges in the South in the maintenance of the status quo, often with the acquiescence and cooperation of their Negro presidents, is dramatized by J. Saunders Redding in his first novel, "Stranger and Alone." Discussing these college heads, Moon says the original pattern was cut by Booker T. Washington, who "pioneered a technique for attaining leadership which has been used by many Negroes with neither his ability nor his sincerity." That Redding's President Wimbush of Arcadia State College has nothing of the integrity of Booker T., but is rather the ultimate in selfishness, venality, and opportunism, we think the reader will agree.

The book derives its title from its hero, Shelton Howden, son of an unknown white man and a Negro woman who has died, forcing the child into life in an orphanage. As the story begins, Howden is a student at New Hope College, feeling wretchedly alone because of his poverty, his orphanage background, and because of his age — he is 23. He is ambitious to become a doctor but an experience as waiter on a dining car causes him to jump off the train one day, permanently injuring himself and canceling all hope of his entering medical school. After graduation from New Hope, he receives an M.A. at New York University, by way of a scholarship, and returns to the South to teach at Arcadia.

It is at Arcadia College that Howden becames the pet of Pres. Perkin Wimbush, who advances him steadily and trains him as his successor. Howden learns that the quickest way to success is not through idealism but by facing reality, which, in the South, meant accepting the Negro's stated inferiority and his subordinate status, while taking advantage of the situation to advance himself by helping whites to keep it that way. Howden became adept and happy that "The security and the sense of place he had always wanted were materializing at last."

A few quotations about Pres. Wimbush's philosophy of life which he instilled into Howden will suffice to give an idea of the president's character, the best etched in the novel. The president was no race man. He thought that the "ordinary type of race man — the men on the faculty and the darkies who edited the papers and the local big shots who were always getting up delegations to wait on mayors — weren't smart. They had never learned, or would never acknowledge that there was nothing to be solved but the problems of their own frustration." "That sense of reality is important, Shel. It's what establishes values. It's what makes one man a success and another a failure." "In the truest sense, my boy, we're the white man's niggers." "I'm talking about reality, Shel. Idealism and ethics and justice's got no more to do with it than a hog's got to do with Christmas."

The main thing in life, according to the president, was to be a success, no matter how you got to be a success. It was his belief that success carried with it the privilege of establishing its own morality and that people never pointed out any act as being immoral unless it ended in failure.

The hero, Howden, is a weakling and, perhaps, he had to be weak to carry the message of the story. Self-conscious and resentful, he was in addition confused to the point where he couldn't have a satisfying love affair except with a married woman, the president's wild and neurotic daughter. He never questioned Wimbush's actions; just admired and accepted him.

There are several flaws in Mr. Redding's first piece of fiction which would lead us to think that he had better stay in the field of non-fiction in which he has done better, as in his autobiographical "No Day of Triumph." In the first place, the story moves along in one tempo, never rising to any dramatic height. Secondly, all of the characters except the president are vague and shadowy, giving a flimsy, superficial touch to a theme that had great possibilities. And, if we must point out another, the psychological implications of the hero's personality are never made enough of.

Be this as it may, Mr. Redding has done a good job in laying bare the hypocrisy and treachery of Negro leaders who delay the advancement of their people by adopting a course of action approved by the dominant group and who, in so doing, advance themselves.

Fred Douglass' Stature Has Grown

THE LIFE AND WRITINGS OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS, Edited by Dr. Philip Foner, Vol. 1, Early Years. International Publishers. New York. $4.

By ROBERT FRIEDMAN

HE WAS a slave who became the outstanding leader of the Abolitionist movement. He never had a day's formal schooling, but his eloquent speeches and writings for four decades gave constant, steadfast leadership.

"He" was, of course, Frederick Douglass, and the publication now, for the first time, of his collected works, is an event of major literary and historical importance.

"The most important body of literature on the Negro in this decisive period, 1840-1895, not only in Negro history but in the history of the United States." That's how Dr. Philip Foner describes the Douglass collected works.

The writings of the great Negro and Abolitionist leader were assembled by Foner and are being published by International Publishers. Volume I, "Early Years," is already on sale; Volume II, "The Pre-Civil War Decade, comes off the press in a few weeks. Volumes III and IV, "The Civil War" and "Reconstruction and After" are scheduled for Fall release.

How Dr. Foner undertook the task of collecting Douglass's works is a story as exciting as any detective thriller. Interviewing him on the occasion of the publication of Volume I, we learned that Foner, in the course of editing volumes of Paine's, Jefferson's and Washington's writings, "had turned to Douglass." But, "to my dismay, I found them not easily available."

About seven years ago, Foner began in earnest to track down the works of Douglass. He found "no single place" where they were preserved. As a matter of fact, even Douglass himself had believed that the only file of his crusading newspaper, the North Star, had been destroyed by fire.

"So I started the search," Foner recalled. "It took me from one end of the country to the other—and to England," the last by corespondence, he explained with a smile. "I found letters, speeches, copies of his newspaper in Rochester, Washington, Philadelphia."

Bit by bit, copies of the paper Douglass edited from 1847 to 1862 (North Star and then Frederick Douglass' Paper) were located and photostated until almost a complete file of the paper Douglass had thought lost forever was restored.

The works of many figures of Douglass's era, both great and obscure, have been printed and reprinted. "But the writings of the individual who ranks with Lincoln and Jefferson in my opinion," declared Foner, "have been ignored."

Why have Douglass's writings been permitted to languish in obscurity? "**Because Douglass speaks for today. Because the theme of these books, the philosophy of Douglass, is struggle. You must never give up. You must fight all the time. Douglass was not a gradualist. He believed in fighting for immediate change and reform.**

"**For what is Douglass dealing with?**" **continued Foner. "The struggle for Negro liberation, against slavery in the South and against prejudice in the North."**

The existence of Douglass's aforementioned newspapers, in the civil wars and earlier, and of the New National Era in the late 60's and 70's means that for all that time, "a great Negro leader was expressing himself, weekly and monthly, on every important issue which confronted the Negro people and the nation," said Foner.

Douglass saw the need for the interrelation of the struggle for Negro liberation and the struggle for human rights in general, Foner pointed out, and so the four volumes of his works are full of his views and his counsel on peace, women's rights, the British Chartist movement and the other great issues of his day.

"**His writings stamp him as the outstanding thinker in the anti-slavery movement,**" Foner said, "**one involved in the day-to-day struggles the Underground railroad—Abolitionist conventions.**"

Much new material has been turned up, showing, for instance, Douglass's considerable influence on Lincoln, how he worked closely with the Civil War President on such issues as the use of Negro troops in the Northern army.

Shown as a Statesman, Theoretician

Yet, despite all this, Foner pointed out, Douglass has been largely ignored by bourgeois historians. "Where he hasn't been ignored he has been treated as an orator—but neglected as the statesman, theoretician, strategician and leader that he was. These collections completely negate the conception of Douglass as merely an orator."

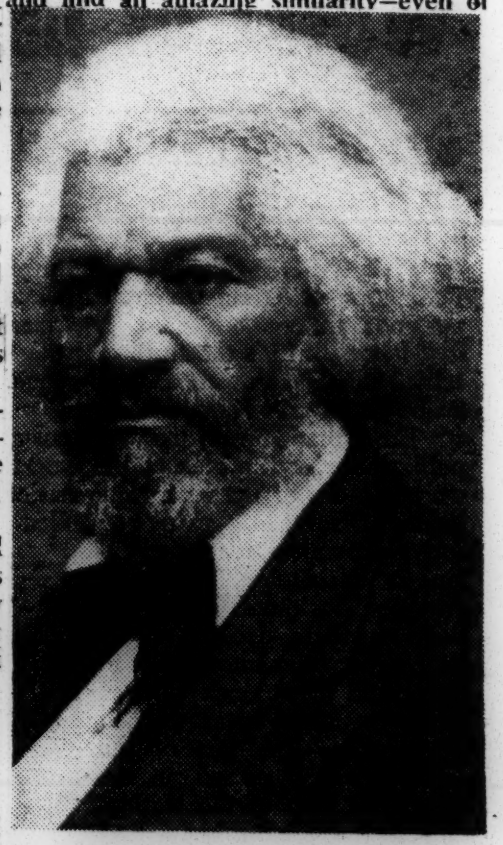
Dr. Foner described Douglass as a "sort of watchman" who "kept his eye open for any concessions anyone in power might yield to the power of prejudice, and then lashed out at such compromise with reaction . . . whether it was Garrison, Lincoln or Sumner."

But, he pointed out, "this is not the voice of an individual—important though he be—but of an individual who was linked up with the whole struggle of his people, always tied up with the mass as both leader and spokesman."

These things, Foner said, cannot be obtained from a biography of Douglass alone. "You must read the man's work."

Was there any connection between Douglass and Marx? Both men were in England at the same time.

"**I haven't been able to find any direct connection,**" replied Foner. "**However, their approach to many problems was remarkably similar, particularly during the Civil War. You could put sections of Marx and Engels next to Douglass and find an amazing similarity—even of language—not because they were in contact but because of their mutual dialectic approach, the approach of the class struggle.**"



FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Each of the four volumes of Douglass's articles, speeches and letters edited by Foner contains 100 pages of the biography of Douglass for the period covered. Together, they add up to a complete biography of the Negro leader with a re-evaluation of his role in the anti-slavery movement and his place in history based on the material here assembled for the first time.

Together, International Publishers and Dr. Philip Foner have joined to restore to the Negro people and all progressive Americans a vital part of their heritage . . . the great voice of Frederick Douglass.

The Negro in America
Coronet Magazine- May, 1950

Granger Hails Feature On Group In Coronet

NEW YORK — Lester B. Granger, executive director of the National Urban League, hailed the 16 page picture feature on "The Negro in America" in the May, 1950 issue of Coronet Magazine out today (April 21), as "a deeply human document which gives the record of 15,000,000 Negro citizens. It is inscribed with dignity and pride." The Urban League, now in its 40th year, is a nation-wide interracial social agency for promoting equal ecenomic opportunity.

Observing that Negroes have played a historic role in the development of America as a nation, Mr. Granger said, "Negro Americans have shifted from rural homes to such an extent as to become a three-fifths urban population group.... this mighty movement which has literally transformed large and small communities in every section of the country has neither solved all of the serious problems of the Negro population nor avoided the creation of new community problems as old ones are resolved."

"The Negro in America" article tells of these problems and the men who are working to solve them, educators, jurists, writers, and scientists. It tells also of the "just plain folk" who have worked for the betterment of their fellow-man as well as themselves.

Included in the picture story are Mr. and Mrs. Walter Edwards, Oklahoma City, Okla., who received the National Urban League 1948 Recognition Award for service to humanity. Mr. Edwards has shared his hard-won fortune with others by building and endowing a 195-bed hospital dedicated to the service of all who need medical care, regardless of race or creed. Out of every dollar he earned in the early days as a horse and buggy junk dealer, he put away a few pennies for bigger things." His success grew until he was able to build the "Edwards Addition" in Oklahoma City, — a development of 500 homes for Negroes in moderate circumstances — and finally the hospital.

Also portrayed in the feature are: Jackie Robinson, Marian Anderson, Joe Louis who got his start through the Detroit Urban League, and Ralph Bunche. The article pictures the late Dr. Charles S. Drew, developer of blood plasma,

Judge Francis E. Rivers, Dr. Percy L. Julian, prominent bio-chemist, and Charles S. Johnson, president of Fisk University, the last two former members of the Urban League family.

"The Negro people of America," the report concludes, "have accomplished many things. Leaders like Ralph Bunche, of the United Nations forsee a bright future. For the achievements of today are the fertile seeds of tomorrow."

The Negro Business Man

THE NEGRO IN AMERICAN BUSINESS. By Robert Kinzer and Edward Sagarin. 220 pp. New York: Greenberg. $2.50.

By ABRAM L. HARRIS

FROM small beginnings by free Negroes in pre-Civil War days, business enterprises owned and operated by Negroes have grown in number and size. Today such ventures employing all-Negro staffs and catering exclusively to Negro consumers are considered by members of the race to be as important in their advancement as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Urban League. Relying upon the history of Negro business as told by others and the current facts as reported by previous investigators, Robert Kinzer and Edward Sagarin seek to appraise the "anomalous" position of the Negro business man in our economic system. They also analyze the future of business enterprise as a factor in the race's progress.

Mr. Harris, Professor of Economics at the University of Chicago, is author of "The Negro as Capitalist."

Although there are, for example, 201 Negro insurance companies, of which the sixty-two largest have 1 billion dollars of insurance in force, Negro enterprises are small in comparison with similar white undertakings. While sheltered from outside competition by legal segregation and traditional race relations, the Negro business man is confined by these same circumstances to a market of low-income consumers and handicapped in obtaining capital and credit.

WITHOUT the protection of racial segregation, it is often argued, Negro business could not exist. Advocates of such business thus appear to be in the position of desiring segregation while demanding "integration" in national economic life. As the authors observe, the removal of racial barriers would simply mean that the success of Negroes in business would be determined by their ability to compete in general markets. The Negro farmer, they note, has been a fairly successful operator in the general market. The issue of "separatism" versus "integration" is considered to be artificial.

Although cracks are now appearing in the walls of racial separation, the foundation is slightly impaired. Therefore, improving Negro living conditions, for example, by building new houses, as one Negro insurance company has done, in North Carolina, in no way conflicts with the aim of eventually becoming a part of the main economic stream.

THE authors consider it impossible ever to establish a separate and self-sufficient Black Economy. Born of despair during the last depression, the idea of a separate Negro economy was extremely popular in the Thirties. Just why a separate economy is impractical is not altogether clear from the author's discussion. However, the reason is simply that Negro businesses, though somewhat removed from the centers of finance and industry, would in any case be connected with the general system of production and price.

The "ideological" basis of the Black Economy program was not laid, as the authors state, by Booker T. Washington's doctrine of racial emancipation. Mr. Washington thought, naively perhaps, that if a man, though black and living in the South, could make a mouse trap better than anyone else the world would make a beaten path to his door.

Revision Of "The Negro Bibliography" Published

NEW YORK—(ANP)—Publication of the sixth revision of "The Negro, a Selected Bibliography," was announced here recently by the New York Public library.

The booklet compiled by the adult department staff of the 135th street branch library, lists books which are in the branches Schomburg Collection of Negro literature which may be used for study, review and discussion on Negroes by students, study groups and reading clubs.

Aim of the booklet is to provide easy reference to works by and about Negroes. In the foreword, the authors set forth its purpose as:

"Since there is no natural aversion of one race or creed to another, we believe sincerely that books can be used as effective weapons against prejudice, intolerance and lack of understanding. We are convinced further that they may with dignity and truth develop democratic attitudes.

"This . . . sixth revision . . . is offered as a weapon to help defeat one phase of bigotry in American life, to inform those who do not know, to strive to convince those who will not, to believe and to develop pride and self-respect in those toward whom discrimination and prejudices are directed."

The listings are broken down under the headings "African Beginnings," "Anthropology," "Folklore," "American History," "Beyond Our Shores," "Economic Outlook," "Social and Cultural Life," "Race Relations," "Biography," both collective and individual, "Literature," "Drama," "Poetry," and "Music and Art."

Among the authors whose works are listed are Arna Bontemps, W. E. B. Dubois, Carter G. Woodson, H. Courlander, B. G. Brawley, Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, G. James Fleming, Mbonu Ojike, Horace Cayton, Moon Bucklin, Florence Murray, Robert C. Weaver, F. L. Brownlee, St. Clair Darke, Edwin R. Embree, Claude McKay, Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, Roi Ottley, Heywood Patterson, Lillian Smith, Richard Wright, Langston Hughes, Dr. Charles S. Johnson, Countee Cullen, Gwendolyn Brooks, Owen Dodson, Alden Bland, Hodding Carter, Roland Hayes, Alain Locke and Howard Thurman.

In the biographical section are such names as Louis Armstrong, Benjamin Banneker, George Washington Carver, Frederick Douglas, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, W. C. Handy, Mathew Henson, James Weldon Johnson, Joe Louis, Adam Clayton Powell, Bill Robinson, Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, Phillis Wheatley, Walter White.

26b 1950

The Papers of Thomas Jefferson
Vol.1: 1760-1776

THE PAPERS OF THOMAS JEFFERSON, Vol. I: 1760-1776. Julian P. Boyd, Editor; Lyman H. Butterfield, Mina R. Bryan, Associate Editors (Princeton University Press; $10).
6-26-50

Books of the Times

By ORVILLE PRESCOTT

WHICH is "the American city where you are least likely to be bored"? If your answer is New York you are mistaken, in the opinion of Robert Tallant. It is New Orleans, where "the people are gayer, more lighthearted, less afraid of their neighbors far and near." They also "derive more enjoyment from their lives than do most Americans, hence they are in general more charming and, in the best sense of the word, more cultured, for even those who cannot afford to belong to a privileged leisure class often act as if they do, usually without even realizing that they are acting that way." Mr. Tallant, who is a native of New Orleans as well as an enthusiastic admirerer of the Crescent City, is the author of the last of a long line of New Orleans books, "The Romantic New Orleanians."*

Robert Tallant

He is also the author of a number of novels, the possessor of a serviceable sense of humor, a man qualified by intimate acquaintance as well as by journalistic research to write about his friends and neighbors and their ancestors, especially their ancestors. In only two other American cities, Boston and Charleston, are ancestors as important as they are in New Orleans.

Ancestry an Open Sesame

Society in New Orleans, says Mr. Tallant, is stratified into castes and classes. You can be poor but proud and very much a member of the most exclusive circles. You can be rich and an outsider. But New Orleans is an American city, in spite of the French and Spanish blood in its veins. The American variety of social democracy applies there, too. The rich outsider's daughter may get into "society"; his granddaughter will certainly do so.

"The Romantic New Orleanians" is a book about New Orleans society, its local customs and picturesque personalities, the fifth volume in the "Society in America Series," which was begun so auspiciously several years ago with Cleveland Amory's "The Proper Bostonians." Society with a big "S" may be a strictly limited subject; but it does not lack "human interest." Mr. Tallant bogs down rather badly for a while among the genealogical trees and interlocking directorates of the oldest Creole families and he goes into the complexities of the Mardi Gras carnival customs more exhaustively than their interest warrants; but he has unearthed a deal of amusing material and he has told many a diverting anecdote. This is an entertaining book.

New Orleans society was given its special flavor and for a long time was dominated by the Creole French who founded the city. Proud, clannish, luxury-loving, fond of music and the theatre, passionately devoted to parties and dancing, the Creoles thought more about spending money than saving it (unlike Bostonians). They delighted in food and drink, good manners and polite conversation. The young ladies were carefully guarded and always thought beautiful if it was humanly possible.

The young men kept quadroon mistresses before marriage (and sometimes afterwards). They fought incessant duels—over ladies, over the rival merits of opera singers, over women who were not ladies. One of them even challenged a stranger to a duel because he had said that the Mississippi was muddy!

After the Louisiana Purchase, when New Orleans became an American city, the Anglo-Saxons moved in and soon outnumbered the Creoles. For a while contempt was mutual. Americans scorned the frivolous Creoles. One wrote home: "New Orleans is a dreadful place in the eyes of a New England man. They keep Sunday as we in Boston keep the Fourth of July."

The Creoles, of whom some thought that it was indecent to ask the price of anything, scorned the crass, commercial Americans "in trade." A writer in a Creole newspaper summed it up: "A man who spends his life making money must necessarily be coarse and vulgar." But the Americans prospered and many of the Creoles did not. Today Creole blood is still a matter of pride; but it is likely to be pretty well diluted with Anglo-Saxon.

Personalities and Peculiarities

"The Romantic New Orleanians" is packed with odd bits of information and remarkable people. Among these are: the girl who dueled with her father-in-law and shot him dead; Bernard Xavier de Marigny de Mandeville, who inherited $7,000,000 in 1803 when he was 18, who fought nineteen duels, and who died broke; Madame Labourie, whose social position was impeccable but who personally tortured her slaves for the pleasure of it; Adah Isaacs Menken, actress, saloon keeper and friend of the literary great of England and France.

Some of the subjects Mr. Tallant discusses are: opera, steamboats, the decline and revival of the French Quarter, the incredible seriousness and intricate secrecy surrounding the exclusive clubs which sponsor the Mardi Gras parades and balls (sixty of them last season, not all exclusive), New Orleans writers, belles and grandes dames. Two of his items about food and drink are particularly astounding. At a banquet given for Henry Clay in 1842 the guests were offered their choice of four soups, four kinds of fish, eight dishes of boiled meat, five "cold ornamental dishes," four baked dishes, eleven entrées, seven roasts, eight kinds of game, thirteen kinds of vegetables, six "pastry ornaments," nineteen desserts and six wines. Once twelve men wagered that they each could drink twelve bottles of wine topped off with a quart of anisette. Two of them did.

"The Romantic New Orleanians" makes generous use of material found in other New Orleans books. It is longer than it need have been. Nevertheless, it is the best volume in the "Society in America Series" since "The Proper Bostonians."

THE ROMANTIC NEW ORLEANIANS. By Robert Tallant. 384 pp. New York: E. P. Dutton. $4.50.

THE SCULPTURE OF NEGRO AFRICA, by Paul S. Wingert. (Columbia University, $4.50). A study.

Gertrude Martin

Frank Slaughter's New Historical Novel Is Dramatic And Suspenseful

"THE STUBBORN HEART" by Frank G. Slaughter follows the usual formula for historical novels, but its author's story-telling skill lifts it above the mediocre level of many. In addition, he has chosen a situation which has great dramatic force and he makes excellent use of suspense throughout.

The book is concerned with Dr. Julian Chisholm's attempt after the Civil War to bring order out of chaos at his family estate, Chisholm Hundred. A long period of recovery from a serious illness and unwillingness to face the reality of the destruction visited on his home and that of his neighbors had left the plantation in the hands of his wife for long months. A Tennessean who had served as a Union agent, Jane Chisholm and her reforms were anathema to her husband's old friends.

Yet by treating the freedmen as human beings and paying them wages for their work she had succeeded in getting a start toward prosperity. A clinic on the estate open to anyone who needed help was run by two doctors, one Jewish and an old friend of Dr. Chisholm, and the other, a Negro. The latter's presence was another sore point for the Southerners.

The rise of the Klan, the contesting forces at work in Reconstruction and Julian's attitudes toward them, as well as his wife's activities against the Klan make for exciting reading. Julian's mad attraction for Lucy Sprague, his brother's wealthy widow, who wields much power among the die-hard Southerners and later with the Klan, complicates the plot.

"The Stubborn Heart" suffers from an excess of material and characters. Lucy Sprague, especially, is a stock character with her irresistible beauty and lust for power, and the book might have been stronger if she had not been given such a prominent role. The relationship between the Chisholms and Jane's activities which keep her from home for years at a time strain the reader's credulity. Finally, I think the author who is a doctor himself has given unnecessarily detailed medical description on several occasions.

With all its flaws, however, "The Stubborn Heart" races to its climax and takes the reader along with it. The three physicians, Julian, Noah Heath, the Negro and Louis Rothschild, are well drawn, distinctive character. This is a colorful, sometimes melodramatic, book which will attract many readers.

"The Stubborn Heart" by Frank G. Slaughter; Doubleday and Company; New York City; 1950; $3.00

Book Review

TAFFY, by Philip B. Kaye. Crown Publishers. 419 Fourth Ave., New York. 258 pp.

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

No serious writer ever intends to devise a formula. He is too charged with creative self-consciousness for that, and too absorbed in probing and sounding the mega-cosmos which his fancy has constructed of instinct and experience. What he achieves is as objective as sin. What he achieves, in fact, is an expression of his personality, and of his alone. He has no wish really to set a literary fashion. Because as a creator he is a god, he is jealous of his creation. He is no baker turning out a biscuit recipe to be printed on sacks of flour for unimaginative cooks.

Mr. Redding

What happens is that a good serious writer gets imitated. But the fact shocks him, even when, being also human, it flatters him. Sometimes his style is so vital, or his matter so compelling, or his form so complete that others see in him the operation of laws which, if they can apply, will bring order to their own lesser worlds of experience and sense.

Imitates Wright

Many of these others back in the 1930's, for instance, thought that an imitation of Hemingway's style would do this for them. Since **Native Son** and **Black Boy**, some have thought that Richard Wright's matter would do it for them.

The author of **Taffy** seems to have thought this. From the title to the end, Philip B. Kaye tried to reproduce the terrible Wrightsian world of the city jungle.

Mistaking for something else Wright's painful delineation of society-motivated impulses, Mr. Kaye produces sensationalism.

Taffy was meant to be a lighter-skinned Bigger Thomas. There is the street gang, the pool room, the pilfering, the fighting, the frustrating hate — and fear-filled contact with whites, and in the end, there is murder and the chase.

The Story

Taffy does not like his mother, and his mother does not like him. Until she is forty-five, Taffy's mother is content to suffer "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune." Then she is suddenly energized and becomes a great leader — privileged, powerful and possessive.

Taffy rebels, slips back to his low-down, sneak-thief ways. Mrs. Johnson goes on and up, dragging her weakling husband behind her. Taffy commits a murder and hits the bottom just as his mother reaches the top. Why?

But there is no thematic line, and no narrative structure. Because it lacks the one, the book has not the "tone of voice" either of purpose or of point of view. Because it lacks the other, it is without method and control.

The eternal why is never answered, and the answer to the how is broken into a dozen fragments that must be pieced together with patience. Focus is the word: there is no focus.

Taffy is a kind of verbal triple-exposure, each blurring out whatever of importance there might have been in any one of them.

New Novel On Racial Theme Most Penetrating On Colored Social, Upper Strata Religious Life Ever Written

("TAFFY," a Novel by Philip B. Kay. Crown Publishers. 258 pp. $3.00

With little advance fanfare, one of the most penetrating and significant novels on Negro urban life has just been published in the closing weeks of the 1950 literary season.

Taffy, the first novel by a Negro writer who uses the pseudonym Philip B. Kay, is destined to rank with the best works of Richard Wright, Bucklin Moon, Willard Motley, Arthur Gordon and other gifted Negro and white writers who have done outstanding work on racial themes.

Ostensibly, this is the story of Taffy, a slum-shocked Harlem youth whose ambitious mother drags her family from the depths of the black ghetto to a more desirable life in Brooklyn. It is more the story of Martha Johnson, the mother, whose inpate drive, overweening ambition and native talents make her own advance inevitable.

But more than all, this, this first novel is the most penetrating study of Negro social and upper strata religious life that has yet been recorded by any writer. Bucklin Moon, in "Without Magnolias" accomplished much of it in a southern setting (with only a side trip up north.) But Kaye exceeds even Moon in the full treatment of the urban setting.

Because of the violence, brutality and slum setting of the novel, many readers may be inclined to compare Taffy to Richard Wright's "Native Son". There is a superficial similarity to the themes (as there must be to any two works treating the same subject) but a thoughtful reading of this new book will find that Wright's book, brilliant as it was, will suffer by comparison.

Not that Kaye, nor any other American writer including Hemingway, can excell the hard-hitting prose of Richard Wright. But in creating Bigger Thomas, Wright really wrote a strictly black and white picture that dealt mainly with white rejection of Negro America and the violent and fatal counter reaction of a slumbred Negro youth to this rejection.

The author enlarges the screen by picturing not only white rejection of Negroes, but the even more significant fact of Negro caste rejection of Negroes. And although Taffy like Bigger Thomas goes to his violent end for killing a white person, the Negro community as well as the white must be blamed for his doom.

Kaye (as he needlessly calls himself) was able to accomplish this because of his background as a worker, a probation officer, an editor and then publisher of Negro newspapers and as an ordained minister who once served in the Brooklyn community so well described in his book.

Wright never knew nor cared to know the middle and upper class Negro society pictured in this book. Kaye not only knows it, but is able to expose its shallowness, selfishness and crudity while explaining sympathetically the purely American forces which make it a lamp-black copy of an equally shallow white society.

The social leaders, the politicians, the social climbers, the religious spokesmen and many other characters will be recognized by observant Negroes and whites everywhere.

Here's hoping we have only started hearing of Philip B. Kaye. It will be difficult for any writer to follow up such an excellent first novel. When he does however, here's hoping that he uses his real name. He deserves the credit in his own right. And not even the most scathingly lampooned Brooklyn society dictator will attack him. She couldn't afford to, without admitting that he has drawn her picture too well.

Forgotten Abolitionist

THEODORE WELD: Crusader for Freedom. By Benjamin P. Thomas. 305 pp. New Brunswick, N. J.: Rutgers University Press. $4.25.

By RALPH VOLNEY HARLOW

THE objectives of this new study of the great abolitionist are two-fold. One is to reveal Theodore Weld "as the appealing and extraordinary man that he was"; the other, to "give the reader a new conception of the abolitionists."

The first aim results in a vivid biography. Mr. Thomas has made use of a wide range of source material. Weld's activities, interests and purposes can be followed clearly, and the whole account is rich in illuminating detail. Here again are the major episodes of abolitionist history, fully and brilliantly described: the great debate at Lane Seminary; the contest over "Garrison's antics"; the division of the national society into two rival organizations, each hating the other as venomously as it hated slavery; and the contest over the right of petition in the House of Representatives. Weld's part in all this is amply covered.

Mr. Thomas, who is the author of "Lincoln's New Salem," also explains, without putting his explanation into words, why Weld dropped so completely out of sight, why he never attained a place in history comparable with that of William Lloyd Garrison or Harriet Beecher Stowe. Weld was preeminently a spellbinding orator, a speaker who could hold an audience enthralled literally for hours at a time. Contemporary testimony on this point is abundant. Lyman Beecher described him as "logic on fire * * * As eloquent as an angel and powerful as thunder."

Yet his words, separated from his presence and his personality in the flesh, seem commonplace and almost ineffective. Garrison's invectives in the Liberator still burn the reader almost as hotly as they did a century ago. The emotionalism of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" still has a powerful appeal. However, not even the best efforts of a sympathetic and enthusiastic biographer can restore life to Weld's words today. Mr. Thomas contrives to make the man live, but the message is beyond recapture. The hypnotic power that inspired his hearers cannot be even suggested on the printed page.

Readers will disagree about the second objective, a reappraisal of abolitionism. Some will consider the book not so much a reappraisal as simply a new presentation. Mr. Thomas assures us that the abolitionists were of all kinds, and that they were unselfishly consecrated to a high ideal. He also assures us that modern prejudice against them "stems largely from a misconception . . . from accepting William Lloyd Garrison as typical of the anti-slavery agitation." Actually, as he points out, "only a relatively small number of the anti-slavery crusaders embraced Garrison's extreme beliefs, or advocated his radical measures. Eccentricity was prevalent among them, but their one common and emblematic quality was unselfish consecration to a high ideal."

CERTAINLY he has every right to admire Weld, Weld's philosophy, and Weld's methods, and to impress his readers with his admiration. Yet he owes his readers something more. He owes it to those not thoroughly familiar with the subject to make clear why Weld was mobbed at his meetings, and why Daniel Webster could find nothing good or valuable in abolitionist works. Mr. Thomas does call attention to Charles Grandison Finney's criticism of abolitionist violence, but Finney was far from being alone among his contemporaries in this respect.

The attitude toward radicalism in any cause is not a product of the cause itself but of temperament, both of participants and of observers. Luther and Erasmus have had their spiritual allies ever since the beginning of recorded history. Instead of being a "misconception," some current dislike of abolitionists may well be traced to the violence of their methods. People in 1850 and in 1950 could hate slavery as an evil without believing that abolitionists used the best tactics in their crusade against it. As Mr. Thomas says, denial of the idea of spiritual equality among men brings convulsions. Yet violent agitation in the cause of reform may bring convulsions, too.

NEA Issues Booklet On Tolerance

WASHINGTON — (ANP)-- A new "civil rights" pamphlet, which lists methods of teaching tolerence, and also cites incidents of intolerance," was published there Thursday, by the National Education association.

Entitled "True Faith and Allegience— an Inquiry Into Education for Human Brotherhood and understanding,' it is divided into two parts. The first is devoted to examples of intolerance, while the letter half lists methods to be used by teachers and citizens'. groups in "teaching tolerance."

The foreward carries an appeal of the lack of a vote, in Washington, as an example of civil rights curtailed by prejudice. One chapter also speaks of the lack of a of civil rights curtailed by prejudice.

26b 1950

"True Faith and Allegiance"

D. C. Rule Cited

Antiprejudice Battle Urged On Teachers

The National Education Association yesterday published a pamphlet directed at teachers and civic groups urging them to recognize prejudices and educate against them.

The 100-page booklet, titled "True Faith and Allegiance," was written by Harold Benjamin, dean of the University of Maryland college of education and chairman of the NEA Commission for the Defense of Democracy Through Education

Post

Quoting from the Bible, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution, the report poses the question: "What is the msision of education in helping to close the gap between these noble words and our daily practices?"

Would Spotlight Times, Places

The report states that "good education will turn the spotlight" on "times and places" of discrimination against "Negroes, Jews, Catholics, Protestants, Democrats, Republicans, conservatives, radicals, industrialists, laborers, tenant farmers."

Post 10-14-50

It cites as one case of discrimination the lack of vote in the District.

Washington

"Why is the District of Columbia, with a population greater than any one of the 14 states of the Union paying close to a billion dollars a year in local taxes, given no self-government?" the report asks.

"Why when the platforms of both major palitical parties, the President, a unanimous Senate, a probable majority of the House of Representatives, and a certain majority of the pepole of the United States want the District to be given home rule?

Four Southerners Cited

"Good education will spot the four southern Representatives who are ranking majority leaders of the House District Committee in which home rule has been pigeonholed.

"Good education will seek to discover the precise sources of this oposition. Is it a disinclination to give votes to the 30 percent of the District population who are colored?"

The publication proposes that to fight discrimination teachers treat each student "with respect and consideration, no matter who his father is, how he looks, what he wears, or what religion he follows."

Teachers must see to it that fellow pupils "treat him in the same way."

It suggests that teachers form groups to discuss tolerance and intercultural understanding, and that through parent teacher associations, church and civic organizations they "educate the community."

Teachers should give students "freedom to discuss the facts, and freedom to hold and act on beliefs according with the facts . . . that all of them may have their levels of tolerance and understanding raised."

Book Review

UNDER THE SKIN, by Phyllis Bottome. Harcourt, Brace. 383 Madison Avenue, N.Y. 311 pp. $3.00.

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

In **Under The Skin** Miss Bottome has written an interesting and an entertaining novel, but she has made a kind of blunder that one can say perhaps inheres in her theme and her material. She has drawn a character—in fact, two characters—on a grand scale involved in circumstances in which no grandeur is required.

In so doing she has added a cubit to that towering pile of books which have as their basic theme the godly intricacy and therefore humanly insoluble complexities of the race problem.

Not all the authors who treat this theme do so maliciously; not all of them mean to perpetuate the myth of God's mysterious and immutable purposes working towards ends which man can neither question nor imagine. Miss Bottome does not. But the fact remains that in **Under The Skin** she has given her heroine godly attributes as an endowment necessary to the solution of a simple human problem. Fictionally heroism in race relations comes high. Actually, of course, it comes cheap.

The Story

When the story opens, Lucy Armstrong has already shown the stuff of which she is made. She has borne with great fortitude the loss of first a husband and then a lover in the war. Her own courage has won her a decoration from her King.

But the island in the Caribbean to which she is going as headmistress of a school calls for something else again and for courage of another kind. It calls for a decision as to whether Lucy is to be a girder in the great buttress of ideas and practices of white (and colonial) superiority or whether she is to be true to her heart and her humanity. That is her problem.

And it is the contention of this reviewer that it is only disingenuously a problem that demands grandeur to face and solve.

Yet, the circumstances do not deny Lucy entirely. But for the involvement of the race problem, she is a heroine in the sturdy, dependable everyday sense in the way in which she meets the sharp challenges of living with strange people.

And Philip Calgary, a mulatto doctor, is a hero in the big, romantic sense. His past is part of Lucy's problem. He has behind him, for instance, an affair with Elvira Loring, a mulattress, who is one of Lucy's colleagues. Currently his paramour is Whiteleaf Ho Sung, a Chinese lady of indeterminate age.

Elvira does not like Lucy, not because Philip falls in love with her (Elvira doesn't know it), but because Lucy is a professional rival and because Lucy is white.

Elvira tries to have Lucy murdered. She does not succeed in this, but Lucy is seriously hurt and, under Philip's care she falls in love.

Through various circumstances—a dance, a hurricane, a suicide—Lucy and Philip are brought together as people, and in the end Lucy elects to stay "on the Island she had come to serve."

LOOKS AT BOOKS

An Unusual Novel of the West Indies

Readers get another Phyllis Bottome best sellers in her latest "Under the Skin" (Harcourt, Brace and Co., New York, $3).

Set in the beautiful West Indies, this story is lush with the violence of nature, both elemental and human. and the undercurrents of psychological conflict.

The most central character is young Lucy Armstrong, heroine of World War II decorated by the King, who goes to the islands to be head mistress of the school for Negro girls. The name of the school is Eversiade which sounds peaceful enough but is very far from it. Lucy enters into her responsibilities with her own idea of an open mind. Open, that is, to acceptance of people different from herself about whom she learns a great deal.

AMONG HER professional staff are Miss Whiteleaf Ho Sung who is an avowed Communist and Chinese lover of handsome Philip Calgary, island physician, and Elvira Loring. Elvira is a light colored islander with a degree of charm in her own right. It was she who was head mistress over the school for two years before the board sent Lucy to take her place. Naturally, Elvira must furnish a good part of the evil of the novel. She could not help resenting this girl much younger than herself who "stole" her coveted position. And Elvira tries everything short of murder to get rid of Lucy with the aid of an older girl, Margorie Fielding whom Elvira completely dominated up to her tragic end.

AMONG LUCY'S friends are Myra O'San and her father, and Nancy Peck, one of the few characters who takes her place in the story always as herself; she neither wishes to be higher nor lower than she finds she is.

Bob Anstruther of the planter's family was to have been the solution to Lucy's future lovelife until he was put out of running by Dr. Philip Calgary. Early in the story the reader senses that with the entering of the doctor, Lucy's racial complications are going still further and end up romantically inclined.

A HURRICANE unleashes it self upon the island, a confused young girl commits suicide, and Lucy relinquishes her claim on her former friends and life to become a Negro woman's daughter-in-law as a triumph over her earlier confusion when she admitted having fallen in love with Philip Calgary.

What a joke on the board which set Elvira back to put Lucy in her place. One can't help hoping Miss Bottome will write a sequel to "Under the Skin" which is quite good.

GWENDOLYN WILLIAMS,
Indianapolis, Ind.

U.S. Labor Department Annual Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1949

Job Bias Attacked By Labor

WASHINGTON — Discriminatory employment practices based on factors of race, color, religion, or national origin are contrary to principles of freedom and equality, the U. S. Labor Department emphasizes in its recently released annual report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1949.

"The principle that a person shall have economic opportunity in accordinace with his individual ability and qualifications is basic to democratic theory," the report points out, adding: "Many of our people, however, are restricted in their opportunity to earn a living by discriminatory employment practices."

Such discrimination is manifested by "refusal to hire, by the denial of upgrading opportunities, by wage differentials, and by exclusion from union membership or the formation of auxiliary unions without the full benefits of union membership," the report continues.

"The Department of Labor, therefore, has supported legislation to prohibit discrimination in employment because of race, color, religion, or national origin. It favors legislation which would rely primarily upon peaceful persuasion in dealing with discriminatory employment practices but which would also provide appropriate sanctions for those cases where persuasion is unavailing."

Discrimination in employment "is not a state or local problem alone" but "a national problem which affects our whole economy and requires action by the Federal Government," the report states. "It crosses state lines and has a depressing effect not only in the state where it is practiced but subjects employers in other states, which may have fair employment practice laws, to unfair wage competition."

The Department of Labor was the first agency to issue a general order to its employes under the President's Executive order providing "Regulations Governing Fair Employment Practices Within the Federal Establishment." The Department order was unique: It covered not only personnel practices but also the administration of the Department's various broad programs as they related to the public.

A fair-employment officer was designated in accordance with the provisions of the Executive Order and each bureau was required to assign an official to work with him. During the fiscal year 1949, these officials received seven complaints alleging discrimination. Six of the complaints were disposed of on an informal basis. The exceptional complaint was carefully investigated and a panel was appointed to hold a formal hearing. Before the hearing was held, the employe involved resigned from the Department. Since the complaint was consequently not pressed, the case was closed without a hearing.

26b 1950

Vinegar Hill

Gertrude Martin

'Vinegar Hill' Has A Few Flaws But It Makes Absorbing Reading

"VINEGAR HILL," by Franklin Coen, is a novel about the South which puts together some of the familiar elements of Southern fiction in a new combination. There is violence here and brutality, and unreasoning hate of the Negro, but the emphasis is on characters. Mr. Coen has written a good novel which might have been better if his characters had emerged more clearly.

The book is built around Archie Glines and what he stood for although he is killed early in the book's action. As an important member of a veteran's organization opposed to graft and injustice, Archie was the target of the entrenched powers. His murder on the eve of a grand celebration in honor of Lucius Tobias, retired secretary of state, sets varying and opposing forces in action.

Returning with Tobias to Rocky Valley, his birthplace, was his granddaughter, Martha, beautiful, confused and frustrated. Her sympathies are with Archie, his widow, Anna, and his good friend, Dan Akins, brilliant young attorney, but she retreats from action in their behalf.

The author has failed, it seems to me, in making Martha and her grandfather come to life. He succeeds in showing their confusion of mind and their will to do the right thing but they seem inconsistent. With Tobias, much of this is explained by his illness, his age, and weariness with the world, but even in his case there seems a haziness in delineation. With Martha this is more accentuated because in the early pages she is more clearly defined than later in the book.

The Negro characters as well as Archie, Anna and Dan, to some extent, are romanticized rather than real people. The subplot involving Pick, the lusty deputy sheriff and Biloxi, the venerable Negro, weakens, rather than strengthens, the story.

"Vinegar Hill" is no ordinary novel; Mr. Coen writes skillfully and his narrative moves swiftly. His ending would have been stronger, I believe, had Dan held to his opposition to violence. In having the veterans choose armed opposition as an answer to brutality and political chicanery, the author nullified some of his own good arguments expressed by Akins.

"Vinegar Hill" is an absorbing novel despite its flaws which are outweighed by its good points.

"Vinegar Hill" by Franklin Coen; Rinehart and Company, Inc.; New York City; 1950; $3.00.

Hughes Edits Poetry Quarterly

Langston Hughes has edited the Negro Poets Issue (Winter, 1950) of **Voices**, A Quarterly of Poetry. He has included poems by Jessie Fauset, Robert Hayden, Gwendolyn Brooks, Mr. Hughes himself, Frank Marshall Davis and others. These are chiefly poems of protest and many of them are new to me. Some of the poems selected are not as good as other more familiar ones, but perhaps Mr. Hughes preferred the newer works.

A number of reviews of books of poetry are also included here.

The Poetry Quarterly is published at 73 Main Street, Brattleboro, Vermont, and an appeal is made in this issue for financial support. Subscriptions are offered at three dollars, supporting subscriptions at fifteen dollars a year, patrons contribute thirty or fifty dollars, and sustaining board members, one hundred dollars. Harold Vinal is the editor.

* * *

In the current issue of the Saturday Review of Literature, Gerald Johnson takes issue with H. A. Overstreet over certain passages included in Mr. Overstreet's recent SRL article, "The Gentle People of Prejudice." It would take another article to answer adequately Mr. Johnson's objections.

Book Review

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

Voices: A Quarterly of Poetry, has just put out under the editorship of Langston Hughes a colored poets' issue. It is a very good thing to have done, for in these times of scientific materialism, more and more of the avenues of publication have dried up for the poet, particularly for the colored poet.

Publishers make no money from poetry, and few of them will even consider such work. Now that Opportunity has folded, only three regular outlets through which the colored poet can talk specifically to his people remain.

But even if they wished, the Crisis, Phylon and the Southwest Review could not print all the good work of the ten or twevle good colored poets now writing.

Not Always Their Best

Each of these—and some others not so good — is represented in the present issue of **Voices.** Each of these is not always represented by his best. Myron O'Higgins' "Death of Bessie Smith" is poor O'Higgins for instance, and Robert Hayden and Gwendolyn Brooks have both much more to give than their present selections show.

The inclusion of two pieces by Marcus B. Christian, "Politicians" and "Scavengers of the Dawn," must have been pure courtesy, for, heaven knows, any college freshman with a rhyming dictionary and a couple of worn-out ideas could have done better.

But such strictures only make what is valuable in this issue more valuable, and there is a good deal of value. It is good to see again new work from some of the older poets.

Georgia Douglas Johnson has not lost her refined lyric touch. Jessie Fauset, who writes little poetry, but writes that little well, contributes a piece called "Courage." Effie Lee Newsome, after years of regrettable silence, sings again.

Best at End

Whether Mr. Hughes intended it or not (and I think he did), the best things are saved for the last, like dessert — a cool, tangy and stimulating dessert — after a greasy meal.

Melvine B. Tolson's best gifts are on display in "African China." Those gifts include a directness of communication and an aptness of imagery that remind one of Gwendolyn Brooks.

But none of the poems has the emotional rightness, the intellectual brilliance and the artistic finish of the four pieces by M. Carl Holman. Here is a poet who has never been jejune or trite; here is a poet's poet who yet somehow, by some magic of sincerity, makes an appeal to hearts commoner than the poet's.

This Winter, 1950 issue of **Voices** is worth the price, for its pages introduce several new poets and several whose best work will remain new.

What Do You Think? by Nannie H. Burroughs. Published by the author. Lincoln Heights, Washington, D.C. 141 pp. $1.00.

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

Nannie Helen Burroughs has never bitten her tongue. And why should she, when there is so much else to bite? The world for her is a full table of viands of which she eats. What she finds to her taste, she digests; what displeases her, she spits out with vehemence and scorn.

Her reputation among an older generation is rather awesome, and, like other characters of integrity, she is perhaps more feared than followed, more respected than loved and more admired than approved. Yet she seems by nature a gentle woman, full of loving-kindness and moved by a spirit of sacrifice.

The history of the National Training School for Girls is proof enough. Add to this her religious work and you have the story of a life requiring the greatest self-abnegation, the story of a life dedicated to mass improvement, mass uplift.

Values Unchanged

But in the interest of strict truth, this must be said: Nannie Burroughs's dedication seems a little old-fashioned. This is no reflection on her, really— or if it is, it is not ill-meant, and it still must be said. Her values simply have not changed in a quarter of a century.

The world of ideas and of fact has grown up around her, walling her in and walling her out from the knowledge that the things she has been preaching for forty years should now need no sermonizing.

Miss Burroughs's basic assumption is the kind of social Calvinism that Booker Washington, whom she admires, made popular, and it runs something like this: The colored man is alone to blame for the fix he's in. He is born lazy, errant and with a bad smell to him. He is incapable— or nearly so— of saving himself. When he is saved, as he is now and then, it is through the grace of somebody white.

Booker Washington realized that this was his premise. He knew what he was saying, and much of the psuedo-scientific thought of the day supported him. He had a conscious conviction that the colored man was born inherently inferior to other races.

This conviction comes out in Washington's speeches, and especially in those which his admirers have tried to suppress lest they contradict the reputation of the Tuskegee "Titan."

It Comes Out

Now, of course, Miss Burroughs may not know that this is the primary thesis of all her sermons (and that modern knowledge repudiates it)— she loves "her people," she would not willfully abuse them.

Yet it comes out in her book, **What Do You Think?** It comes out in those essays of hers in which she deals with problems of race.

She speaks of the "transformation of Negro character" that must come about. She says, "What white people are doing to us is not half as demoralizing as what we are not doing ourselves. We, ourselves, are our own biggest problem." Thus she sees the colored man as a problem in toto and in vacuo.

But this is not all in **What Do You Think?**, and this reviewer would not like to give the impression that it is all. There is a full diet of essays.

When Miss Burroughs deals with general matters— with church and home and school— she makes the kind of sense that teachers of sterling character always make. The pity is that there are so few teachers of sterling character.

MRS. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT
A Southerner Gets Her Told

Mrs. F.D.R.'s Dixie Slur Is Answered

WEEP NO MORE, MY LADY. By W. E. Debnam. Raleigh: The Graphic Press, Inc. 62 pages. 50 cents.

A Southern newspaperman has leapfrogged into the ranks of authors of best sellers via the locally-printed-book route, coupled with the purse-pleasing price tag of 50 cents for his remarkable little book, "Weep No More, My Lady."

Since May 15, five editions of the trenchant views of W. E. Debnam, Raleigh, N. C., news commentator and former Washington and Virginia-Carolina reporter, have gone to press. The first 40,000 copies of "Weep No More, My Lady" were consumed in Mr. Debnam's home state, and the neighboring localities of Virginia and South Carolina, like the oft-mentioned hot cakes. The fifth printing seems likely to follow suit.

"Weep No More, My Lady" is Mr. Debnam's (and obviously the average Southerner's) trenchant reply to a column written last February by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, in which she touched the match to Dixie's ire by a rather condescendingly patronizing observation that, in the South ". . . one can enjoy oneself superficially, but one must shut one's eyes."

Mr. Debnam takes it from there; and he takes it with some literary sharpshooting that is reminiscent of the manner in which fun-loving Westerners allegedly used to make tenderfeet dance. "Weep No More . . ." is 50 cents worth of bang-bang in anybody's language.

WILLIAM O. KEY.

Gertrude Martin

Defender Sat, 1-12-50

'White Witch Doctor' Story Of Spinster In Africa After 40

"WHITE WITCH Doctor" by Louise A. Stinetorf is the story of a dauntless spinster who went to Africa when she was well past forty against the advice of most of her family and friends. In her foreword Miss Stinetorf states that the Ellen Burton of her novel is not herself, but adds that she has "drawn upon direct and vicarious experiences" for the material of her book. The result is fiction which certainly reads like truth.

When Ellen Burton went to the Congo, it was the realization of a dream of many years. Her parents and sisters and brothers had depended on her, and it was only after her father's death that she felt free to enter the missionary field. Even then she met opposition from the Missionary Board and later from the hospital where she wished to take nurse training in order to have a specific skill to offer. In the end she overrode all these objections based on her age.

Chicago Ill.

The twenty-five years she spent in Africa, before she was forced to resign and return home against her will because of age and a bout with blackwater fever, were full of varied experiences. At first, at the Tani mission, she found herself hemmed in by the rigid rules and outlook of the other missionaries. She was resented because she possessed a modest inheritance and there was considerable competition between her and the workers for the spiritual well being of the natives. She was irked by the fact that she was not allowed to see patients on Sunday.

After the death of Dr. Mary, the elderly physician who had started a mission hospital in an isolated village near the swamp. Ellen took over there. She found life more to her liking, despite early difficulties, because she was on her own. She learned to operate and to attempt to treat any case which presented itself. She was fortunate in having as her helper an unusual African woman, Aganza, who had come to her with a young baby whose mother had died in childbirth.

Unlike most of the novels about Africa, "White Witch Doctor" does not emphasize the exotic or the flamboyant, but tells of the everyday life of the villagers. Miss Stinetorf writes of the Africans as human beings and not as odd types. Ellen came to love them and to be loved in return. She resented the treatment of the natives by those whites who approached them only through curiosity or to profit from their ignorance.

"White Witch Doctor" is a simply written account of an interesting and unusual career. The characters, both African and white, are real people, and their experiences together make exciting reading.

"White Witch Doctor" by Louise A. Stinetorf; The Westminster Press; Philadelphia, Pa.; 1950; $3.00.

Gertrude Martin

Peter Abraham Follows Through With Another Interesting Novel

A NUMBER of excellent novels have come out of South Africa in the past several years: Alan Paton's "Cry the Beloved Country," Elizabeth Webster's "Ceremony of Innocence" and Peter Abraham's "Path of Thunder." Now Mr. Abraham has written "Wild Conquest," a novel of the Great Trek of the Boers in South Africa, in the first half of the nineteenth century.

Descendants of the pioneer Dutch Boers were a hardy people who, even up to the present, have maintained their identity, and today represent the great force for white supremacy at the action of Great Britain in freeing the slaves. In protest they formed caravans of wagons piled with household goods and set off northward. Their hatred for the British and for the natives sustained them through the rigors of the march.

After a time Mr. Abrahams shifts his story to the Matabele people, the big powerful natives who had conquered much of the North and were holders of the land the Boers sought to own. They knew nothing of the white man, and, although their king longed for peace, neither he nor his generals knew how to gain it. There were a few of the Boers, too, who saw the dangers of a life built on hate and bloodshed but they were overruled. This is the tragedy which the book so effectively describes.

Mr. Abrahams' style in this novel is somewhat similar to that of Alan Paton in "Cry the Beloved Country" although his writing does not have the same simplicity. At times he seems to be straining for effect and at others he overwrites. In this respect "Wild Conquest" is not as convincing a book as his own "Path of Thunder." The author knows the period of which he writes and the reader comes to know it, but his characters do not seem as real as the present day people of his earlier book.

What Mr. Abrahams has done exceedingly well is to show how easily men's minds turn to hate. The counsels of the moderate among both the Boers and the natives were not heeded because the minds of the majority in each camp were closed. It is a tragedy which is not confined to that time. The relationship of Kasper Jansen to his slaves and to his family and the change in his temperament from a man of justice to the hard, bloodthirsty automaton he becomes is well developed.

"Wild Conquest," despite its minor flaws, is an interesting book which like "Path of Thunder," reveals its author's deep concern with man's relationship to man.

"Wild Conquest" by Peter Abrahams; Harper; New York City; 1950; $3.00

SOUTHERN FOLKLORE

Douglas Southall Freeman in an article entitled, "The Tonic of Southern Folklore," in the Spring 1950 American Scholar credits the Negro with sharpening the humor of the South. "If the Negroes are grateful for their advancement in the South, they may assert that they have recompensed their teachers; and if the Negroes wished to avenge themselves for their bondage, they could say they had made their masters their captives in music, in mimicry, in humor, and in laughter," Mr. Freeman writes.

BOOKS AND THINGS

By LEWIS GANNETT

WILD CONQUEST. By Peter Abrahams. Harper. 309 pages. $3.

THIS is a black South African's cry for his beloved country, a story of the hate that swelled in the high veld 115 years ago when the Boer farmers, to escape British rule on the coast, trekked northward into the black men's country, and the black men fought back, and were beaten.

The Great Boer Trek

Stuart Cloete wrote of that trek, with exotic color and exultant gusto, in his roaring novel "The Turning Wheel," thirteen years ago. The English novelist Francis Brett Young also told the story in "They Seek a Country," and again from a white man's point of view. Young Peter Abrahams, whose "The Path of Thunder" was a "Harper Find" two years ago, tells it from both white and black men's points of view. In his compassionate story you understand how inevitable it was that the Boers should adopt a motto "The only good Kaffir is a dead Kaffir," how sure and bitter was the defeat of the dark tribesmen, and why the fruits of the hates of that year still poison South Africa.

Peter Abrahams

Mr. Abrahams points no explicit morals, and offers no sociological data; but the reader of his moving novel will do well to remember that the Union of South Africa is a land where the blacks still outnumber the dominant whites more than five to one, yet are disfranchised and segregated with a strictness not matched even in Mississippi. The tribesmen who recently hailed the return of Seretse to his white wife in Bechuanaland, a reserved territory just outside the Union which white South Africa covets, may, some of them, be descendants of the "Kaffir" fighting men of Mr. Abrahams's novel, with living memories of the lost empire of their old chiefs.

Inevitable Tragedy

It began, so far as Peter Abrahams's story goes, in the little valley where Kasper Jansen had brought his Anna as a bride. It was lonely, but it was theirs. The Jansens had armed some of their Kaffir slaves against the Bushmen; they had prospered. Then Kasper's brother Koos, the hot-head, rode up from Capetown with news that the British had ordered all slaves freed, and that thousands of the Boer farmers were trekking north to get away from British rule.

The slaves heard the news, too; with their knowledge, white security was gone. Koos shot a young black who was slow to give up his gun. So, in ever-growing bitterness, the Jansens pile their goods on the great ox-cart and start north, burning their house rather than leave it to their slaves. It is a long, lonely trek, but when they reach the high veld, the great grassy saucer in the heart of Africa, they meet other trekkers; the loneliness is gone. But not the hate.

To the north of the trekkers the Kaffir tribesmen were still warring, one with another, and the generals of Mzilikazi, king of the Matabeles, were plotting one against another. They thought their spears invincible. Only white-haired Gubuza foresaw any future but war. (You can find Mzilikazi in the Encyclopaedia Britannica, sometimes spelled "Mosilikatze," sometimes "Umsilikazi," if you are curious to know what is fact and what is fiction in this story, and you can also find his son Lobengula, a baby in Mr. Abrahams's story, who will one day sign a treaty with Cecil Rhodes.) Mr. Abrahams succeeds remarkably in making these dancing warriors, their witchcraft and their women, their arrogance and their ignorance, as well as their blind courage, pitifully human and convincing.

'Weep for the Young!'

Spears, of course, were no match for guns. The Boers took the land, feeling that they had paid for it with their blood. Those among them who had been ready to recognize Kaffirs as human beings had no chance. And among the blacks even Gubuza, who had foreseen the outcome, had to lead his warriors into battle. "Do not weep for me," he tells his wife. "I do not need it. The years have been kind to us. Weep for the young and weep for our nation." Cry the beloved country!

Mr. Abrahams writes without bitterness. He has a rare sense of the tragic drama of history, a compassionate understanding of both black and white. The hot-head Koos, least sympathetic and least skillfully drawn of his white characters, is matched by the strutting Langa among the blacks. Mr. Abrahams is living in France today, writing an account of his own boyhood in Africa. It would also be interesting to read of his return from world recognition as a gifted writer to the race-addled land of his forebears.

LOOKS AT BOOKS

African Writes Distinguished Novel

The principles upon which a nation is founded determine the national spirit and are fundamental in shaping the character of its people. After reading Peter Abrahams' "Wild Conquest" (Harper Brothers, $3), one can readily understand why the Union of South Africa bears the undistinguished reputation of being the most racially prejudiced country in the world today.

In this fictionalized history of the great trek by the Boers, there is an underlying theme of hatred of all blacks by these forebearers of the present Afrikaaners. And why is this?

It was 1835, and the English had abolished slavery in the Cape Colony. The Boers, great farmers of the hinterlands and possessors of Kaffir slaves, resented this liberation.

RATHER THAN SUBMIT to a law which set black men free in their native land, these stolid, stubborn folk of Dutch descent, with a cry of "Northward ho!", abandoned their homes and began the long journey, which was to end eventually in the great South African veldt.

It is not an unfamiliar pattern to Americans that these whites held the blacks to blame for all their troubles and turned upon all Africans their hatred, which has endured unto the present, reaching its apex in the present notorious trade-baiting South African Prime Minister, Malan.

Into this historical fabric Peter Abrahams has woven a strong and powerful story, centered mainly about the lives of Anna and Kasper and Koos Jansen, what befell them on the trek, and the magnificent Matabele warriors, Gubuza and his son, Dabula.

* * *

THERE IS LOVE and understanding, rape and murder, passion beautiful and ugly here. Here is a vivid picture of a people pioneering a nation upon a foundation of intense human bitterness.

Here is a story of men dehumanized in heart and soul. A tale of young women grown old before their time, and children who turn into adults between twilight and dawn.

There is here, too, the compassion of a great and kindly heart in old Johannes the Kaffir slave, the understanding of humanity in generous Paul Van As, the wisdom of Moshesh, wise king of the Basutos.

THIS IS ALL enmeshed in a legacy of a past filled with memories of cruelty and hate, destruction and murder—seeds of racial prejudice whose roots were planted deeply and bear distasteful fruit today.

There are scenes of men at their admirable and courageous best when conquering nature, offset by others depicting them at their ugliest and despicable worst when conquering men.

This is history in all its sadness and joy, a well drawn historical novel that should find a wide and appreciative audience in America, for there is much here reminiscent of our own historical beginnings.

HUGH H. SMYTHE
New York City

"of Innocence"

"WHO'S IS WHO" SOLD TO CHICAGO FIRM

YONKERS, N. Y. -(ANP)--"Who's Who in Colored America" has been sold to Christian E. Burckel and Associates, publishers of the College Blue book, it was announced this week.

The Burckel firm acquired the copywright, records, and all publishing rights. The book's former publisher, Thomas Yender, died Sept. 10, 1949, after a brief illness.

Burckel announced that he plans to make a complete new format for the big volume, and also hinted that he may change the name from "Who's Who in Colored America" to "Who Leads the Negro World," or "Negro Leaders in America," or "Negro Leaders Throughout the World."

Five prominent Negroes will form an advisory board to (a) form policies for future editions, (b) establish criteria for eligibility of individuals to be included in various sections of the book, and (c) review candidates for inclusion in future editions.

The new volume will be both a history and a current record of Negroes who have achieved. It will be dividend into seven sections:

I — The Negro Legion of Honor, biographical sketches of Negro greats, living and dead, selected by a special committee.

II — The Negro Hall of Fame—professional greats selected by special committee.

III — Sponsors of Negro Culture—persons of other races contributing to the interests of the Negro race.

IV — Leaders of Negro America--today's leaders, the main section.

V — National organizations working for the advancement of the Negro race including colleges especially for Negroes.

VI. — Negro publications.

VII — Index and cross reference.

Who's Who in Colored America, the biographical directory established 25 years ago and which was recently taken over by the CEBA organization.

Fleming will assemble a staff which will issue the first edition of **Who's Who in Colored America** since World War II. It will include approximately 8,000 names of living men and women who are serving their communities significantly, those who hold pivotal positions in all areas of public, professional and business life, and those whose names frequently appear constructively in the news. Fleming assumed his duties Monday.

Christian E. Burckel, Director of the publishing house, in announcing the appointment of new editor, stated that he had consulted a number of people, including college presidents, businessmen and newspaper editors, and that most of these suggested Fleming as the most suitable and best qualified person for the position.

A former New Yorker, Fleming has just completed over four years as secretary for race relations of the American Friends Service Committee, Philadelphia. From 1941-45 he was regional director of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, and earlier served in several capacities on newspapers in Norfolk, Va.; New York City, and Philadelphia. He was also editor of the **Kappa Alpha Psi** Journal from 1938 to 1950.

Fleming is a graduate of the school of journalism of the University of Wisconsin and holds the master of arts and doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

In order to answer several inquiries, Burckel and Fleming explained that no one will have to pay anything whatever for being included in the volume and that no solicitors or agents are authorized to ask for, or accept, a fee on the promise of having a person listed in **Who's Who in Colored America.**

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Does Montage For Who's Who In Colored America

YONKERS, N. Y.—Jay Jackson, well known artist and cartoonist, has executed a two-page art layout for the coming edition of WHO'S WHO IN COLORED AMERICA, to be off the press in mid-November, it was made known this week by G. James Fleming, editor.

The montage represents the manifold callings and interests of the over 3,000 persons whose biographical sketches will be carried in the publication — from Army officer to United Nations officials. The layout, printed in sepia, will decorate the inside covers of WHO'S WHO in COLORED AMERICA Fleming said.

Jackson, now of Los Angeles, was born in Oberlin, Ohio, and after leaving Ohio Wesleyan University, studied at the Chicago Art Institute six years. He also did special work, summers, under Rockwell Kent and at the Los Angeles Art Institute.

He was a poster artist with Warner Bros., 1928-33; did mural paintings for the Chicago World's Fair, 1933, and was an editorial artist for the Chicago Defender, 1933-49. His feature work has also appeared in the New York Amsterdam News, the Pittsburgh Courier, Ebony, and Negro Digest.

Jay Jackson On Who's Who Staff

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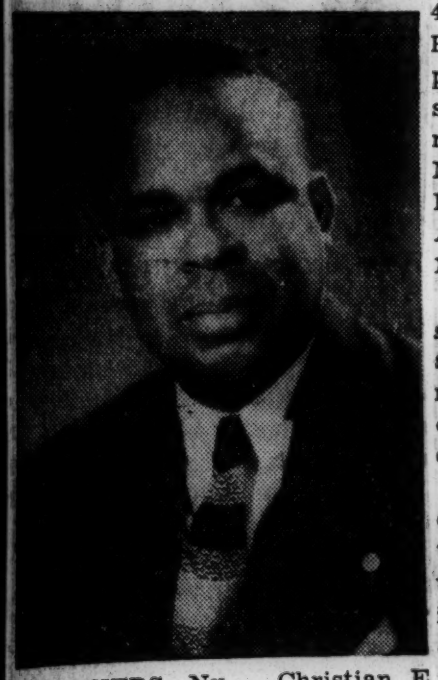
Dr. Fleming Chosen Editor of Who's Wh



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Who's Who in Colored America Off The Press

YONKERS, N. Y. — (ANP) — The long looked for new edition of "Who's Who in Colored America" left the press last week with an outside cover of green and gold, and an inside pictorial layout done in sepia.

Founded in 1927, the biographical directory is now in its seventh edition.

It contains 664 pages, 3,200 sketches, 640 photographs, and a table classifying those included according to the 130 vocations reported.

Each biographical sketch in the book includes for each person the date and place of birth, parents and marital status, training experience and present occupation, publications, if any, religious and political affiliation and the outstanding contributions of the person described.

"It is not presumed, however," according to Fleming, "that the book contains all the best persons or everything about such persons. Rather, it is representative of the person who are in pivotal positions, those who are making a contribution to community and nation, those who are pioneering in new fields, and, in general, those about whom other persons of affairs may occasionally want to know."

Sharing the editing with Fleming was Christian E. Burckel, a member of the publishing firm, and Calvin H. Raullerson, formerly instructor at Lincoln university in Pennsylvania.

The pictorial montage, symbolizing the activities of the biographees, is the work of Jay Jackson, artist of Los Angeles, Cal

"Who's Who In Colored America" A Welcome Book

REVIEWED BY LUIX VIRGIL OVERBEA

"Who's Who in Colored America," edited by G. James Fleming and Christian E. Burckel, Christian E. Burckel and Associates, Yonkers-on Hudson, N. Y.,648 pp.

The new seventh edition of "Who's Who in Colored America" should be a welcome addition to any good library. This book entains more than 3,000 biographies of Negroes who are achieving in America.

Edited by G. James Flemming and Christian E. Burckel, this volume provides a ready reference for any person wishing to know a quick story about any particular Negro.

Printed on thick, semi-smooth paper, this book should wear well, too, Utilizing the variatype process, the book features large, easy to read type.

For convenience "Who's Who" has two indexes classifying persons by occupation profession or interests and by geography. An added feature of the volume is the inclusion of pictures of many of the persons featured.

On the merit side this book apparently has styled itself after the "Who's Who in America" in the quality of its editing and reports. It promises to come out regularly, thus filling a great need for persons interested in Negro leaders.

The cover is an attractive green with the name in the map of the U. S. A. in gold. Featured on the inside of the covers are illustrations of numerous phases of Negro life sketched by Jay Jackson.

As may be expected in a work of this kind, a number of persons were left out, some of them by neglect and others because they refused to turn in interview blanks.

Here and there, the book features a boner such as the leaving out of Marian Anderson from the list of concert singers in the classifcation section. Also, some of the persons contributing pictures of themselves could have forgotten about trying to recall the past by sending current photographs.

This is the first attempt of the publishers to produce this type of book. It is an excellent exmple of what is to come in the future.

Negro Names Appear In Who's Who In South

WASHINGTON —(ANP)— The biographies of some 25 outstanding Negro citizens are among the approximate 10,000 biographical sketches included in "who's who in the South and Southwest," just off the press.

The 1040 page volume published by the A. N. Marquis company of Chicago, contains only sketches of persons who were especially invited by the publishers to answer questionaries sent out by the company.

The editorial board of the Marquis company declared that a biographee is sketched in a Marquis publication not because he wants to be, or because his friends or associates wish him to be, but because a selection routine based on 50 years of experience in serving the needs of serious reference consultants shows that actual or potential reference interests indicate he should be."

Among those listed in the South and Southwest Who's Who are Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, a noted lecturer and author of "A Colored Woman in a White World;" Mrs. Alice A. Dunnigan, writer and newspaper correspondent; White House reporter for the Associated Negro press, and member of the Senate and House of Representative Press gallery; Mrs. Thomasina W. Johnson-Norford, government official; chief of minority section, U. S. Employment Service and first full time lobbyist in America for Negroes; Mrs. Georgia Douglas Johnson, post and author.

Others included Dr. Rayford Logan Prof., of History Howard Uni., Dr. Carter G. Woodson (deceased) historian; William L. Dawson, professor of music Tuskegee institute Dr. Charles Drew (deceased) noted surgeon; General B. O. Davis, only Negro general; and Judge William H. Hastie, former governor of the Virgin Islands.

College presidents included are Doctors Benjamin E. Mays of Morehouse; Mordecai W. Johnson of Howar University; Frederick D. Patterson of Tuskegee; Rufus Atwood of Kentucky State; Rufus Clement of Atlanta university; Charles Johnson of Fisk and Raphael O'Hara Lanier of Texas State college.

The volume also carries the biographies of President and Mrs. Truman Vice President Barkley, the Supreme Court Justices, cabinet members, other top government officials, leading newspaper reporters and columnists, educators, outstanding religious leaders, scientists, physicians, lawyers and leaders in practically every field of endeavor.

New "Who's Who" Just Off The Presses

THE FIRST COPY of the new edition of "Who's Who In ~~Colored~~ America," is examined by its editors and the assistants in the publication offices at Yonkers. Seated (l to r) Calvin H. Raullerson, assistant editor; Christian E. Burckel, publisher; G. James Fleming, editor; Vincent J. McClain, assistant director of publishing firm. Standing: Marjorie Polak, Emily Sudyk, Mrs. Josephine Johnson, secretaries; Farrell Jones, researcher, and Dorothy Young, secretary.